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75¢

DPS chief turns attention to tourists violating traffic law

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Problems with tourists who fail to comply with traffic rules while driving rented cars has become increasingly common, frustrating many in the community and even law enforcers, according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero.

Defense to consolidate on north part of Tinian airport

RELATED NEWS

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By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The military buildup on the Tinian Westfield Airport will be kept north of its runway—granting a clear separation between civilian and military assets, as well as allowing for a consolidated use of property by any Department of Defense entity, according to both CNMI

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- » **'We cannot continue to tolerate tourists not complying traffic safety rules'**
- » **'Car rental companies claim they are educating their customers'**



Deleon Guerrero

In an interview yesterday, Deleon Guerrero said he is aware for quite some time now about some tourists who do not follow traffic safety rules.

"One of the things that we have been doing actually is looking at the educational aspect of this," he said.

He disclosed that they recently com-

See DPS on Page 4

M/V *Luta* prepares for maiden voyage to NMI

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

M/V *Luta* is preparing for its first trans-Pacific voyage to the CNMI from its current port in Louisiana.

Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) hosted a meeting on Thursday with the owners of the vessel, the U.S. Coast Guard, the mayor of Rota, and other lawmakers to discuss the impending arrival of the vessel.

A statement from Hocog's office said the meeting discussed the final modifications for M/V *Luta* as it prepares for international crossing and for interisland cargo service.

A christening ceremony is also set before the voyage.
See M/V LUTA on Page 4



SHRM INDUCTION

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, left, inducts the new officers of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter led by its president Frank Gibson during its first meeting yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. This photo has been retouched to incorporate the SHRM logo.

MARK RABAGO

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President Aquino tries to salvage a peace deal with a Muslim rebel group.

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Former governor Jesse Ventura says American sniper Chris Kyle is no hero.

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Local

Torres: Govt will listen to proposals on military exercises

The current administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos is willing to listen to further proposals regarding joint military exercises and the use of an alternative airport in the CNMI by the U.S. military.

In a media interview, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres acknowledged that a meeting took place Tuesday between members of the Legislature and U.S. military.

Torres said the U.S. military "just presented" what is going on with its Environmental Impact Statement and other updates through a slideshow by military representatives.

The meeting was also a "meet-and-greet" between the U.S. military and members of the Legislature.

"We just want to see what is being proposed," Torres said, emphasizing that during the inauguration of the administration,

U.S. military top brass asked only that they be given the opportunity to present a proposal.

The lieutenant governor said he is not "in favor" of the military exercises but it is only right for the government "to listen."

However, Torres said the military top brass knows that Inos still has the last say.

"They [military] know that Governor Inos has the 'trump card' on this issue," Torres said, adding the governor has the authority to either accept or reject the military proposal.

The meeting last Tuesday will not be the last, as there will be "tons of other meetings," Torres said.

A closed-door meeting between members of the Legislature and U.S. military was held Tuesday to discuss issues concerning military exercises in the

CNMI, particularly on Tinian.

The plan is under the Commonwealth Joint Military Training plan and the EIS that the U.S. military intends to release.

In early 2013, the U.S. Department of Defense published new proposals to establish a series of live-fire and maneuver ranges and training areas on Tinian and Pagan, two months after the release of a study showing insufficient training facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly those in the CNMI.

Torres said the governor would also have the last say on the proposed alternate airport that the military can use in case of emergencies.

The official maintained that the U.S. military still has to address issues regarding the diversion of flights to the CNMI from the military base in Guam, and

that these plans to divert military flights should not hamper any commercial flights entering the CNMI.

Joint Region Marianas earlier said it would take into account the economy and tourism industry of Tinian when it maps out its plans for the island.

According to Joint Region Marianas public information officer Lt. Tim Gorman, Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar made this particular promise to Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas during a meeting.

"The military will incorporate the mayor's request to consider Tinian economic development and tourism factors in military development analysis and planning," said Gorman.

He added that Bolivar assured San Nicolas that, as chief

of Joint Region Marianas, she would personally see to it that she would have an active part in resolving military issues on the island.

"We stressed that Rear Admiral Bolivar's role as U.S. Pacific Command's representative for [the] CNMI is to facilitate resolution of all military matters," added Gorman.

The CNMI is still awaiting the release of the draft EIS by MarForPac that details how they want to maximize the use of Tinian leased lands.

Bolivar noted that the EIS release has been pushed back for a couple of months. The official also said that there is still no final decision on where the alternative U.S. Air Force base would be placed.

The U.S. Department of Defense is considering Saipan and Tinian as the location for a divert airfield in case Guam's

Andersen Air Force Base is rendered inoperable due to attack or natural calamity.

Bolivar said the U.S. Air Force hasn't made a final decision on the issue.

CNMI officials are unified in their request to put the divert airfield on Tinian, where two-thirds of the island is already leased to the military. The U.S. Department of Defense, however, wants it on Saipan. (*Joel D. Pinaroc*)

Probable cause found to charge man of beating, stabbing mom

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of five charges against Jaron Ronald for stabbing and beating his mother at their home in Kagman III.

At a preliminary hearing, Wiseman found probable cause to charge the 24-year-old Ronald with assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, senior citizen physical abuse, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Arraignment will be on Feb. 2 at 9 am.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds called to the witness stand police detective Vincent A. Igisaia, who related the circumstances leading to Ronald's arrest.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for Ronald.

Ronald had claimed that his mother got injured after falling from her bed but police later determined that he actually stabbed her with a knife and beat her up at their home last Jan. 21.

Police said the victim sustained two lacerations on the right forehead and bruises on the right eye and cheek, right arm and right hand. Her fingers were swollen and bruised, and her right leg was also bruised.

The police report and the first amended information did not indicate the victim's age but described her as a *man'amko*. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Torres: Transition report is just recommendations

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said the recommendations suggested by the Committee on Transition are exactly what they are—just recommendations.

In an interview after serving as the main speaker in yesterday's Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter's first meeting of the year, Torres said he would soon meet with Gov. Eloy S. Inos to discuss what parts of the transition report they will adopt.

"Those are the ones that I need to talk to with the governor. The transition report is just recommendations on how to approach the new administration. I will take that under consideration and will be addressing those per department," he said.

Torres said one thing's for sure: Some departments that would deal directly with the planned \$7.1-billion casino project of Best Sunshine International Ltd. would definitely be augmented with more staff.

"When you say increase, there are certain departments that need to be increased like enforcement agencies for sure. Revenues generated from the investments will pay new staffing," he said, reiterating the transition report's recommendations that Customs, Revenue and Taxation, and other enforcement agencies would have to be beefed up.

Torres said he and Inos are looking to finalize the makeup of the new Cabinet this weekend with an eye of releasing the appointments by Monday, Feb. 2.

So far, only acting Department of Natural Resources secretary Richard Seman and acting Department of Commerce secretary Mark Rabuiliwan have been appointed by the new administration.

The current Cabinet is composed of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro, Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero, Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, Corrections Commissioner Ramon Mafnas, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Chief Public Defender Doug Hartig, special assistant for Management and Budget Virginia Villagomez, special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Marvin Seman, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabuiliwan, special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, Carolinian Affairs Office director Jose Limes, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority special assistant Thomas J. Camacho, Women's Affairs Office special assistant

Remy Buniag, and acting press secretary Ivan Blanco.

Inos requested his Cabinet to submit courtesy resignations immediately after his and Torres' victory in the runoff election in December.

In yesterday's interview, Torres said he hopes the governor will finally be able to attend this morning's proclamation signings. He also clarified that Inos is still in charge of the day-to-day operations of the CNMI government.

"I'm not acting by any means as the governor. I'm doing the duties as the lieutenant governor does. I go to these proclamations and do these speeches

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and that's my job as lieutenant governor."

He said he talked with the governor last Wednesday and by all indications Inos is on the

road to recovery from the illness that led him to be confined at the Commonwealth Health Center since last week.

A source at hospital con-

firmed that the governor is still confined as of early evening yesterday. The source said Inos may be discharged today.

The source added that the

governor's treatment at the hospital seems to be working as Inos is more spry and healthier than when he first checked in a week ago.



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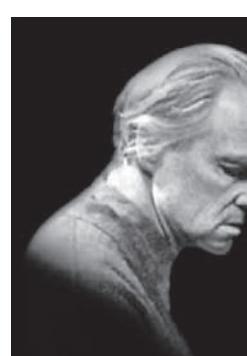
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**HOSPITALITY TRAINING**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students from both Kagman High School and Marianas High School complete their hospitality training at Saipan World Resort. The students, kneeling from left, are Michael Santos (KHS), Shawn Hideos (MHS), Ezekiel Valdez (MHS), Catherine Calabquinto (MHS), Reiko Villagomez (KHS), Ryan Vicente (MHS), and Reence Calage (MHS). They are joined here by the Saipan World Resort management. The students received their certificates of completion from Saipan World Resort GM Hyun Cho Kim, standing third from left. The students were trained from October 2014 to January 2015.

Woman arrested for not appearing at hearing

U.S. Marshal Service agents arrested yesterday Evengelyn E. C. Jones for failing to appear at a hearing in federal court last week on a petition for revocation of her pre-trial release.

U.S. Marshal Don Hall served Jones with the arrest warrant that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued last Jan. 20.

Following the arrest, Jones will be taken before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy today, Friday, at 9am, for her initial appearance.

Jones was first arrested on an indictment charging her with one count of visa fraud and was released last Nov. 24 on a \$5,000 unsecured bond.

U.S. Probation officer Gregory Arriola then filed a petition for revocation of Jones' pre-trial release after she failed to appear for random drug tests on Dec. 16, 18, 20, and 30, 2014.

Attorney Michael Evangelista, the original court-appointed counsel for Jones, later withdrew as her counsel. Attorney David Banes was named in his stead.

At the Jan. 20 revocation hearing, Jones did not show up in court.

Banes informed the court that since his appointment last Jan. 9, he has made many attempts to contact his client without success.

This prompted Manglona to order Jones' arrest and vacated the trial date set for Feb. 2, 2015. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

passenger ship.

"Luta" is other name for "Rota," where the cargo ship will be home-ported.

The 150-foot long, 500-ton cargo ship is currently in Louisiana awaiting a certificate of inspection from the U.S. Coast Guard. The ship can accommodate 18 passengers and can carry up to 28 20-foot containers.

Hocog, who has helped Yamamoto realize his plan to further develop Rota, said having a

cargo ship home-ported on Rota will reduce freight costs and lower the price of commodities.

Hocog said the company plans to provide farmers initial free freight costs to Guam "to realize more of their profits."

The senator said this cargo ship will also be the "answer" to Rota's longstanding problem of food and other commodities shortage every time barges cannot go into the port because of rough seas.

corporate their infrastructural plans into the ALP.

CPA will then see if this ALP imposes or overlaps with areas that they have plans to build on, she said. When the consolidated ALP comes to CPA, discussions to "fine-tune" the plans for CPA approval will move forward, before they submit the plan to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Robert called the meeting a "breakthrough" in that both sides are now able to talk details and move forward with a proposed ALP. He described a parking ramp, cargo pads, fuel storage tanks, specific facilities related to arming and disarming aircraft, and potential for a pipeline to be installed from the Tinian port to the fuel tanks at the airport as some of the "the general big facilities" proposed.

Moving forward, Lizama said that is now up to MARFORPAC, PACAF, and PACOM to come together and in-

covered both the Air Force and the Marines," she said.

In the meeting, CPA established that "any and all [DOD] activities shall be situated in the north side [of the airport] to have that separation" and not "intermingle civilians with military" and "civilian assets and resources with military assets and resources," Lizama said.

DOD officials—from the U.S. Pacific Command, Pacific Air Force, and Marine Forces Pacific—all agreed to this, according to MARFORPAC Defense Policy Review Initiative Planning Group Operations Officer Tim Robert.

In their previous plans, DOD was separated on both the north and south side of the airport, according to Robert, but now they are moving towards "one DOD location."

DEFENSE

From Page 1

and military officials yesterday.

This was made clear between the Commonwealth Ports Authority and DOD yesterday during their talks on a proposed airport layout plan inclusive of the military's plan to build on the Tinian airport.

Whether consolidated military use of the airport property could make the area a more attractive divert airfield alternative—over the preferred Saipan alternative—remains to be seen. This question was posed to CPA executive director Maryann Lizama yesterday. She said both the Air Force and the Marines are collaborating to "incorporate their needs on one ALP."

"The meeting [yesterday]

"Now we can consolidate all our facilities. Instead of having two parking ramps, two maintenance facilities, two fuel storage tanks on the north and south side, we can put it all on one side. ... We don't have to go back forth, north and south of the airfield. It helps us consolidate our operations and helps deconflict from civilian operations on the south side," he said.

He described the development as "joint-DOD facilities," saying these facilities "would kind of spread out across the north side" of the airfield for use by not just the Marines or the Air Force, but also for "any other DOD entity."

Moving forward, Lizama said that is now up to MARFORPAC, PACAF, and PACOM to come together and in-

corporate their infrastructural plans into the ALP.

CPA will then see if this ALP imposes or overlaps with areas that they have plans to build on, she said. When the consolidated ALP comes to CPA, discussions to "fine-tune" the plans for CPA approval will move forward, before they submit the plan to the Federal Aviation Administration.

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Moving forward, Lizama said that is now up to MARFORPAC, PACAF, and PACOM to come together and in-

vehicles, because DPS is mindful of how important it is to support the tourism industry.

"But at the same time, we cannot continue to tolerate this because it is really frustrating to a lot of the members of the community," he said.

Even law enforcement officers are getting tired of pulling over tourists and giving them traffic citations, he said.

Deleon Guerrero is not even sure if tourists actually pay their traffic tickets because they leave the CNMI even before their scheduled court appearance, which is usually three weeks later.

Tourists are allowed to drive in the CNMI using their driver's license issued in their respective countries for a period of 30 days.

Car rental companies claim that they actually educate their customers about traffic safety rules.

Sally Wang, a staff at Rainbow Car Rental in Garapan, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that tourists who don't follow traffic safety rules are not their customers.

Showing a brochure about traffic safety rules, Wang said they spend over 30 minutes explaining to their customers the safety rules before allowing them to rent cars.

She said they always screen to make sure that their customers, who are mostly Chinese, have at least three years of driving experience.

Wang disclosed that their company is doing good business because many Chinese tourists continue to visit the islands.

'Narruhn admits disguising as woman to rob Star Poker'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Eric Nick Narruhn, a 28-year-old man who was arrested in connection with the armed robbery at Star Poker in Chalan Lau Lau on Tuesday night, told police that he robbed the establishment by disguising as a woman by wearing a wig and putting on a makeup.

Narruhn was taken to Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing. Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$20,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Feb. 6 at 9am.

The Public Defender's Office was appointed to represent Narruhn in the case.

Churches join the Grace Christian Ministries for free concert today

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, Grace Christian Ministries will hold a free concert titled "Rejoicing in God's Greatness!" today, Jan. 30, 2015, at American Memorial Park from 5:30pm to 8pm.

The concert will feature several churches comprising various ethnic groups, as well as students from Grace Christian Academy and its Youth on the Rock ministry.

"Young people will get together and just give a night of worship unto God for His goodness and love," said concert organizer Pastor Fred Fatialofa. "It's a good time to celebrate 30th anniversary of Grace Christian Ministries, but also a great opportunity to come together as the body of Christ and worship together."

The concert will be held at the amphitheater of American Memorial Park. Admission is free, and \$1 raffle tickets are being sold for a GoPro camera and

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan disclosed in her report that Narruhn's wife, Realiza, who works as a cashier at Star Poker, identified her husband on the surveillance camera's footage of the robbery.

Pangelinan said that Department of Public Safety Central dispatched a patrol officer on Tuesday at 6:11pm, to a robbery in progress at Star Poker, located along Beach Road near the World War II Japanese tank on Quartermaster Road.

A police sergeant met with the cashier, Raquela Aldan, who reported that an unidentified man wearing a wig and with make up on robbed the establishment.

The robber reportedly took \$541 from the cashier's box.

On Wednesday morning, Xing Nong Xu, the owner of Star Poker, played the surveillance footage dated Monday, Jan. 26, time-stamped at 3:25pm (China's time or two hours behind Saipan time).

Pangelinan said she saw on the footage that the same suspect came into Star Poker on Monday and that it appears that the cashier at the time, Realiza, knew the suspect.

Pangelinan said when she and two other detectives went to Realiza's residence in Upper Miha on Wednesday morning, Narruhn came out.

The detective said the couple agreed to be interviewed at the DPS Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation.

Pangelinan said Realiza said her husband brought up in a conversation the idea of robbing Star Poker.

Realiza disclosed that on Monday, while she was the cashier at Star Poker, Narruhn came in disguised as a woman. Realiza said she was shocked and chased her husband away.

Realiza signed a consent form to allow the police to search her house.

In a separate interview, Narruhn confessed that he did bring up the robbery conversation with his wife as a joke, Pangelinan said.

Narruhn allegedly admitted rushing into the cashier's booth and telling the cashier, Aldan,

to keep still as it was a holdup. He was reportedly armed with a toy knife.

Pangelinan said Narruhn confessed taking the money from the cashier's drawer and fleeing.

During the consent search at the couple's house, detectives

found \$205, a plastic bag containing four baby wipes with red lipstick stains, a yellow/orange I Love Saipan bag, a pair of Champion shoes, an umbrella, gray long-sleeved shirt, and a pair of blue jeans.

Pangelinan said Narruhn identified all the items as the ones he used during the robbery.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Hafa Adai from PIC Saipan,

With high occupancy expected at PIC Saipan until the end of February 2015, we will be limiting the number of IP&E Day Guest passes accepted at PIC to one hundred (100) per day. The IP&E promotional coupons will be honored until Feb 28, 2015. If you are planning to use your IP&E passes, please be advised they will be honored on a first come, first served basis. No reservations will be accepted.

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Muña says CHC beefing up primary care services

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will sustain efforts this year and in following years to look for more innovative ways to improve health care delivery and change its procedural and surgical methods to save lives.

According to CEO Esther Muña, the corporation was able to work out an agreement with Medical Missionaries to have specialized care provided in the CNMI.

Medical Missionaries is a volunteer group of more than 200 doctors, nurses, dentists, and others who work to improve the health of the poorest of the poor in the U.S. and throughout the world. They provide medical

care, medical supplies, clothing, and food to the areas they serve.

"Medical Missionaries were provided in Dermatology and Otolaryngology, allowing patients to be treated by these specialists with minimal cost to CHCC," Muña said.

She cited a life-saving heart procedure the Commonwealth Health Center's own physicians performed in October last year—a first for the hospital and the CNMI. In that procedure, a device known as a transvenous pacemaker was implanted on a patient who was awaiting transfer off island for placement of a permanent pacemaker.

"Although a transvenous pacemaker is not a new technology, it is certainly new to

the CNMI. The patient developed a condition known as a third degree heart block in which the natural pacemaker for the heart no longer worked and the heart rate slowed to life threatening levels. This option reduced health risks of transferring the patient compared to risks associated by placing pads on the chest and back and delivering electrical shocks 60 to 80 times per minute," Muña said.

Another innovative way that CHC is looking at is performing cardiac testing procedure.

"This has allowed CHC to more accurately determine what the patient needs in the way of further intervention and expedites the delivery of appropriate care to our patients," she said.

Muña noted that CHC has the capability of providing treatment in gastroenterology and significantly provides savings in

Muña said that emergency specialized surgeries were also provided at the hospital when it was both feasible and more cost-effective to bring in a physician from Guam.

"A neurosurgeon performed an emergency service to a patient who was neurologically intact but with an expanding epidural hematoma that would have likely died or suffer permanent impairment. Orthopedic surgeries were also performed during emergencies by a Guam orthopedic surgeon and by a pediatric orthopedic surgeon from the Shriners Hospital for Children," she said.

Muña said that CHC has the capability of providing treatment in gastroenterology and significantly provides savings in

medical referral funds.

As of now, recruitment is ongoing for specialists in orthopedic surgery, cardiology, otolaryngology, and oncology.

"Of course, there are funding

MTEC chair slams rock throwers

Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente didn't mince words when describing people who throw rocks at tourist buses on Saipan.

"They're just a bunch of sick people who have nothing to do. I don't want to pay attention to them and just focus on people who do have a good attitude who do make our islands a better place to live," she said after being named the 2014

Saipan Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Benavente, who is the wife of former lieutenant governor Diego, said they mentioned the rock-throwing incidents at the MTEC Tourism Summit last week.

"We actually mentioned that during the tourism summit yesterday (Jan. 23) and Thursday (Jan. 22) and the room was full of kids—350 kids on the first day and 350 kids on the second day. Both days we mentioned that and they were all so silent and they understood that kind of attitude and behavior is detrimental to the livelihood [of the islands]. Many of their parents work in the hotels and the restaurants.



Benavente

Benavente, who is the executive assistant manager of Pacific Islands Club Saipan, is a veteran of the CNMI's tourism sector, having worked more than 30 years in the local tourism and hospitality industry.

She is a former managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, which serves as the government's national tourism office.

On Jan. 15 this month, it was reported that a bus carrying 200 Japanese students was hit around 2:45pm, cracking the right passenger side window. The bus was heading north and passing Tanapag Elementary School when it happened.

The January incident comes on top of another incident involving a Duty Free shuttle bus in December. (Mark Rabago)

Cape Air operations back online

Cape Air/ United is back and running after two days of cancelled flights.

According to flightstats.com and United Corporate Communications, Cape Air flights from Guam to the CNMI have resumed.

"In response to the flight cancellations of Cape Air on Jan. 27 and 28, United operated extra flights on both days using a Boeing 737-800 aircraft to accommodate the affected passengers in Guam, Saipan, and Rota," United said

in a statement.

"Cape Air has reinstated a normal operation from this morning. We regret any inconvenience experienced by our customers."

A reason for flight cancellation of all Cape Air flights on Wednesday and Tuesday was not given.

Swaths of flights were cancelled during the middle months of last year largely due to reported technical issues. United flew accommodating flights during this time as well. (Dennis B. Chan)

Emon Lodge No. 179 to install new officers tomorrow at SWR

The non-profit organization Emon Lodge No. 179 will be hosting its installation of officers tomorrow at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall starting at 6pm.

Member Bong D. Malasarte said it will be the group's 23rd installation.

Emon Lodge No. 179 was installed on Saipan 23 years ago in 1992.

The group is a fraternity of men and focuses on helping the community. Their lodge is in Chalan Piao at the Joeten build-

ing. They meet every second Saturday of the month.

The group used to have more than 50 members on Saipan but some have already transferred to other places because of their professions.

"We have 15 to 20 active members residing here," Malasarte said.

The group is part of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines and consists of more than 500 groups. (Jayson Camacho)

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-010

WATERLINE REPAIRS FOR LEAK DETECTION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation to verify leaks and perform leak repairs on various types of waterlines and appurtenances. Materials for leak repairs are to be provided by CUC. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year, contingent upon funding and if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the US-EPA.

The IFB package (electronic disk file) may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection, Saipan**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 5, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1

Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1, Songsong Village Rota, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1 in Songsong Village, Rota. Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 11, 2015** at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota. All potential proposers are encouraged to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions. However the site visit is not mandatory for the potential proposers, owing to the difficult logistics and uncertain air transport.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 12, 2015, 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to be considered. Registered proponents of the initial CUC-RFP-15-001, are exempted from paying the package fee for CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP - 15-001.Rev.1 Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**.

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <https://marianaslabor.net/>.

A **Proposal Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to CUC and the Attorney General.

A **Payment and a Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment & Performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and the Attorney General, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 13, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Stipulated Order 2 Project Coordinator via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

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Vodafone, Docomo Pacific ink partner accord in Guam, NMI

Vodafone and Docomo Pacific have jointly announced a new Partner Market agreement for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, building on Vodafone's strategic partnership with NTT Docomo.

Under the non-equity partnership agreement, Docomo Pacific, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTT Docomo, becomes Vodafone's preferred partner in Guam and the CNMI and the two companies will jointly offer business and consumer customers a range of products and

services.

Docomo Pacific will benefit from access to Vodafone best practice and will be able to enhance its customer proposition in Guam and the CNMI with Vodafone's products and services. Vodafone's multinational corporate customers will benefit from the addition of Guam and the CNMI to their existing contracts for international managed services, while continuing to be serviced via a single point of contact.

Vodafone Partner Markets chief executive Stefano Gastaut

said: "We are pleased to expand the strategic partnership with our Japanese partner NTT Docomo to include Guam and the CNMI, extending our footprint to 54 markets worldwide. This will boost our presence in Asia Pacific and extend the reach of Vodafone's services in the region."

Jonathan Kriegel, CEO at Docomo Pacific said: "With the combination of our parent company NTT Docomo and our new partnership with Vodafone, we are best positioned to bring the people of Guam and the CNMI an unmatched customer experience complete with a world-class network, products and services." (Docomo)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed today, Jan. 30

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to let the public know that our office will be closed today, Jan. 30, 2015, from 8am to 5pm, for Staff Development. Business will resume on Feb. 2, 2015. (PR)

CHCC, emergency responders to hold 4-day exercises

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness, in collaboration with other emergency response agencies, would like to inform the public that they will be conducting a full-scale exercise from Feb. 3 to 6, 2015, on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, from 8am to 4pm each day.

Normal hospital and public health operations and activities will not be disrupted or affected by this exercise. Thank you for your cooperation. For more information, call the CHCC Public Health/ Hospital Emergency Preparedness Office at 234-8950. (CHCC)

Joeten-Kiyu library closed next week

This is to inform the public

that the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed from Feb. 3 to Feb. 7, 2015, due to its annual inventory. Thank you for your understanding. For more information, call 235-7322/23. (JKPL)

Private schools invited to membership meeting

The Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools is inviting all private schools in the CNMI to attend an open membership meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 3:30pm at Mount Carmel School's faculty lounge. The purpose of the meeting will be to allow current and prospective members of the coalition to submit required items for membership, as well as to move forward with several initiatives. Private schools on Rota and Tinian may also participate in the CCOPS meeting via Google Hangouts. For more information, contact CCOPS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero at galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com. (CCOPS)

NMDC membership meeting set

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp., a chartered non-profit, will hold a general member-

ship meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, starting at 6pm, at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. The agenda includes developing and adopting the 2015 Community Action Plan; membership recruitment; election of officers & standing committees; and updating the NMD *amicus curiae* filed with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. (PR)

Kagman High sessions with parents

Kagman High School will be having four sessions for parents in the Kagman, Capital Hill, and San Vicente areas and four sessions for parents in Tanapag, San Roque, and As Matius areas. The dates are as follows:

- KHS Café: Feb. 7, March 7, and April 14
- Tanapag Head Start Center: Jan. 31, Feb. 21, March 21, and April 18

Finale will be May 2 and it will be a carnival theme with entertainment by our very own KHS students. Parents that come with their child will receive three raffle tickets for the drawing at the end of the school year and 10 tickets for use at the carnival. Students will receive a raffle ticket for the school drawing and 10 tickets for the carnival. (KHS)

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'Let's do a better job of enticing back former residents'

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has pledged his support for the CNMI's human resources sec-

tor, which continues to face concerns, including the challenge of bringing back skilled and talented residents to the CNMI.

Torres, speaking at the induction of a new board of directors

of the Society for the Human Resource Management NMI Chapter on Thursday, said there is a need to open "the lines of communication and keeping them [CNMI residents abroad]

informed of our work toward creating more jobs they would be proud to accept."

"As someone who left the islands in search of an education, I know first hand of the disconnect between the employment market here and the potential labor pool abroad," Torres said. "We can and will do a better job [of] informing our former residents around the world of our need and desire for them to come back home."

Torres assured HR practitioners that his office is encouraging "open dialogs" so that these issues can be tackled. He said the industry can count on his help to address these human resources concerns.

"The truth is that your roles as human resource managers are vital in developing the

necessary human capacity to meet the challenges of this new and exciting chapter in our Commonwealth. And in essence we all want the same thing. We all want our people, the stakeholders of our organizations, to grow and be more productive in our callings," he said.

Torres led the swearing in of the new board of directors of the SHRM.

This year marks the group's 18th year of providing an affiliate branch of the National Society for Human Resource Management Association for the Commonwealth's human resource professionals.

The chapter's 2015 board of directors is composed of president Frank L. Gibson, owner, HR Support, CNMI (1997

Clearance needed for two new backhoes

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two backhoes the Saipan Mayor's Office received last Friday still requires clearance before they could be used, according to special adviser Henry Hofsneider.

He said the clearance requires paying for the shipping of the heavy equipment. The two backhoes were shipped from Long Beach, California at a cost of \$23,025.

Both backhoes arrived on the evening of Jan. 23, 2015.

"We have not cleared it yet

so it is still at the Commonwealth Ports Authority property in Puerto Rico and we still need to clear the shipping bill," Hofsneider said.

The equipment will be used for clearing of secondary roads.

Once the backhoes are cleared and released to the mayor's office, it will then be up to the operations division and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang to decide on which specific projects will work on at once.

"We'll look at all the requests that came in first. We're very thankful we got those [new equipment] and ask the public

for their patience while we look at all the pending request," Hofsneider said.

Another heavy equipment, a dump truck, will be shipped out from Long Beach, California on Jan. 30 and should get here in 20 to 25 days, or sometime in late February.

The equipment were purchased using about \$100,000 from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation and \$413,000 from the Office of Insular Affairs last year.

OVR outreach in Susupe tomorrow

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors will be conducting an outreach session at the House of Manhoben, located behind the cemetery next to Susupe Chapel tomorrow, Jan. 31, 2015, from 9am to 11am.

Individuals interested in applying for vocational rehabilitation services are encouraged to take advantage of this outreach activity. Normally, orientation and intake/application are conducted at the OVR office on Navy Hill on Tuesday at 9am.

However, in an effort to increase its referral numbers, OVR is reaching out to unserved or underserved populations.

An applicant is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services if the individual: 1) has a disability; 2) has a physical or mental impairment which for that individual constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment;

and can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from vocational rehabilitation services; 3) requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, or retain employment; and 4) has legal status to allow employment in the CNMI or United States.

OVR extends its appreciation to the Ayuda Network for coordinating and making the outreach possible.

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority provides transportation service for a fee of \$5 per ride for the general public (riders without disabilities), or \$3 per ride for approved riders with disabilities and the elderly aged 55 and over. Schedule your ride at least one day in advance by calling COTA at 664-2690. You can call this reservation line from Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm, and Saturday, 8am to 4pm. (OVR)

Free parent effectiveness training

Ganasini Iris, who lives and teaches in Northern California, will be on Saipan for a one-time presentation on effective parenting at Brilliant Star Montessori School on Navy Hill.



Ganasini obtained her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from State University of New York and a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Oregon.

For 35 years she taught at an alternative community school and did independent study for homeschool children. She also teaches parenting classes, titled "Creating Sacred Relationships with your Children" and "Parent Effectiveness Training." Her classes address these subjects:

- How to talk so your children will listen;
- How to listen so they feel understood;
- How to resolve conflicts so nobody loses; and
- How to know which skills to use when.

The class, to be held on Feb. 4 at Brilliant Star from 6:30pm to 8pm, is free. For more information contact Brilliant Star School at (670) 323-STAR (7827). (PR)



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Ticketing Requirement: Tickets must be issued within 3 days after reservations are made or at least 7 days prior to scheduled departure, whichever is earlier, but no later than February 15, 2015. The itinerary must include travel between Guam and Honolulu on one of the following flights, UA 200 & UA 201. Travel via Japan is not permitted.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Improving international responses to Ebola epidemics

The latest World Health Organization statistics indicate that Ebola infection rates are plummeting across West Africa. With 710 new cases confirmed in the past 21 days, this epidemic is far from over. But now that health experts are easing back from crisis mode, this is a good time for an assessment of what went wrong and how to address the problem more effectively the next time.

There will be a next time. Ebola has surfaced in different strains multiple times since its discovery in 1976, and the fact that the current epidemic got so wildly out of control, with more than 8,600 deaths, indicates ample room for improvement in how the world responds.

WHO's executive board is meeting in Geneva this week to examine what went wrong. As Dr. Margaret Chan, director general of WHO, told the board, the epidemic "delivered some horrific shocks and surprises. The world, including WHO, was too slow to see what was unfolding before us."

Some of the problems that exacerbated Ebola's spread were beyond the medical community's control. War and political upheaval weakened local governments' ability to identify and contain the early outbreak.

Cultural factors, such as traditions calling for corpses to be washed before burial, also proved difficult to change. Myths and rumors spread rapidly, putting medical personnel at risk when villagers became convinced the health workers were there not to save them but to infect them.

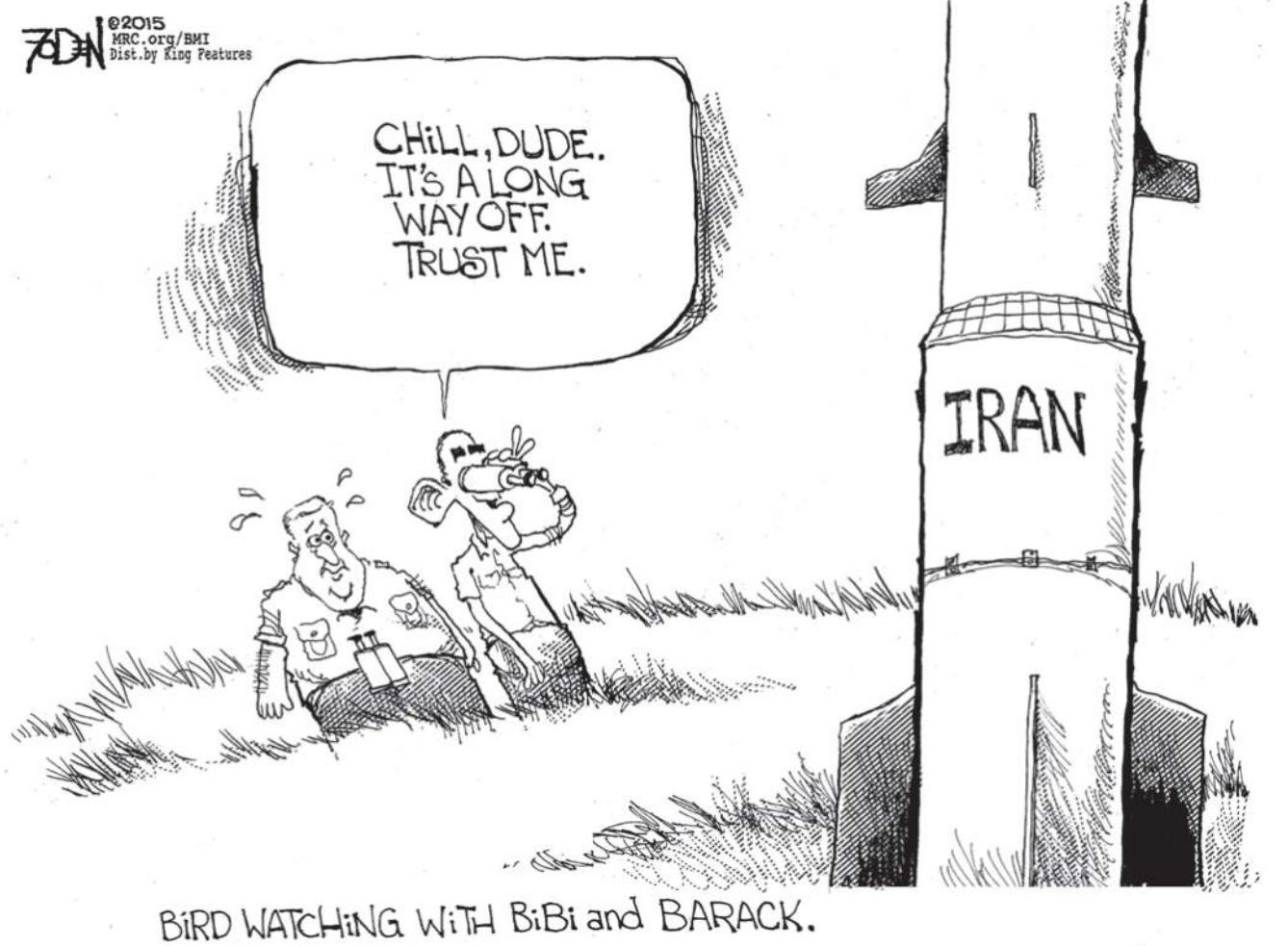
First among many top international priorities should be expanded public education. In schools, mosques and churches across Africa, the WHO and other U.N. bodies should redouble efforts to explain how to properly handle corpses and avoid contact with people showing disease symptoms. The best time to educate the public is not in the throes of crisis but rather in calmer times when people are better able to absorb the message.

West Africa's medical community has been hit hard by the Ebola deaths of 499 health workers. Vulnerability to new epidemics increases dramatically in the absence of qualified health workers to treat the ill. International organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and Samaritan's Purse can lead the way to helping fill this gap as West Africa works to rebuild its medical corps.

Finally, WHO officials should consider more nimble responses. While poor African countries certainly benefit from having more hospitals and clinics, nearly a third of the 64 Ebola treatment centers planned for West Africa still remain under construction today. A better approach might be emphasis on mobile facilities that can be deployed quickly when Ebola hot spots develop.

The executive board's lessons-learned examination is a healthy one. As Chan noted, "Never again should the world be caught by surprise, unprepared."

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Democracy is the best ingredient for economic growth

As China and Russia have surged in power during the past 15 years, more and more people have started to wonder if democracy is really the best economic system. For example, consider Hungarian President Viktor Orban's comments last July:

The global financial crisis in 2008 showed that "liberal democratic states can't remain globally competitive," Orban said. He listed Russia, Turkey and China as examples of "successful" nations, "none of which is liberal and some of which aren't even democracies."

He's not alone. Countries such as Turkey and Thailand are also questioning democracy's usefulness. And a few business leaders have been challenging the concept as well. To cite just one example, venture capitalist Tom Perkins suggested that votes should be based on how much tax people pay, not on one person, one vote. Some have also argued that democracy is the reason India's growth has been slower than China's.

Supporters of democracy often reply that it helps countries get rich. After all, there's an obvious correlation between wealth and democracy—note that Europe, Japan, and the U.S. are all wealthy democracies. Sure, China has experienced great growth, but that's because it started out poor and is huge in size.

But is it correlation, or causation? Does democracy actually make countries richer, or is democracy merely a luxury in which rich countries can indulge?

This question is hard to answer. For one thing, countries only get rich once, and democracies usually only become democratic once or twice. Also, there are lots of other things about countries that might cause wealth, democracy or both. Although we will never know the answer for sure, a top team of economists has done what is just about the most careful study that is humanly possible.

MIT economist Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson of Harvard, famous for the idea that "inclusive institutions" are the key to national development, teamed up with Suresh Naidu and Pascual Restrepo to tackle the problem. They use a large number of different statistical techniques to examine the effect of democratizations. They also use an alternate technique, where they look at waves of democratization.

All of the methods give the same answer: Democracy increases gross domestic product by about 20 percent in the long run.

That isn't a huge number—almost certainly less than democracy's proponents would like. But it's not nothing, either. It turns out that Viktor Orban is wrong; authoritarianism probably won't help

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg News

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg View columnist. Readers may send him email at nsmith150@bloomberg.net



his country get rich, though it won't doom Hungary either.

Acemoglu and company also examine the question of how democracy boosts growth. They find that countries with democracy have better government—they pursue more economic reforms, provide more schooling, provide more public goods and reduce social unrest. They also find, contrary to many who have been following China's story, that business investment is higher in democracies.

Now, that isn't a definitive, final answer. We may never have one—or at least, not for hundreds of years. Maybe democracies have done well in the last century simply because they could trade with, and be protected by, the U.S.—the richest and most powerful country around. Perhaps now that China, by dint of its sheer size, is wresting the crown away from the U.S., we will see things reverse. We can't yet rule that out.

But the institutional improvements that Acemoglu et al. find suggest that the reasons go deeper into the structure of society. These observations match the theory of New York University political scientist Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, who hypothesizes that in democracies, there are too many voters to pay off with cronyism, forcing leaders to provide more public goods like education, infrastructure and property rights.

Our best guess is that democracy really is the best form of government currently available.

There is also the question, however, of whether democracy will survive. Some critics of democracy observe that humanity spent a very long time under some kind of authoritarian rule, such as monarchies or military dictatorships, while democracy is only a recent innovation.

But economists Toke Aidt, Raphael Franck, Peter Jensen, and Gabriel Leon recently did a study that found that since the early 1800s, revolution, or the threat of revolution, has tended to nudge countries toward democracy. If this study is to be believed, it means that democracy is a more stable configuration for a society than autocracy in the modern, industrial age. Just as a tower of blocks tends to fall over when shaken, autocracies tend to turn into democracies when the system is disturbed. This clearly wasn't the case before the Industrial Revolution, so democracy is best seen as an adaptation to the new technological environment.

Not only is democracy good for business, it's here to stay unless the world undergoes some other dramatic shift on the scale of the Industrial Revolution. Viktor Orban, and even China's mighty Communist Party, really do seem to be on the wrong side of history.

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Petty cash

Here's the word of the day: money.

OK, that's a big topic. So we'll take a little slice from the small end of it. And here, when it comes to personal finance, there seem to be two competing schools of thought over small expenditures. Me, I don't have any answers, but I'm always good for some beach chair commiseration as we ponder the questions.

Anyway, one school of thought, which is the laidback outlook, says that you shouldn't worry about expenditures under \$10. If you want it, buy it.

The arguments in favor of this approach probably overlap each other a bit, but with that in mind, I'll mention a few.

One advantage of the laidback technique is that it's easy. It therefore frees up your attention for bigger issues.

Another element is that life is more pleasant when you indulge the little pleasures as they cross your path. After all, life is short, and, worse yet, it's uncertain, so we should gather our rosebuds while we may.

And yet another point here, one that has some scientific juice in behavioral economics, is that if you over-exert your willpower by denying yourself the little things that you want, you'll eventually fatigue that willpower. In this vulnerable state, you run the risk of getting snared by a big thing. So, if you refuse yourself the pleasure of the little things, so the theory goes, you might wind up buying a shiny red sports car on impulse.

Now we'll entertain the opposite school of thought. We can call

this the penny-pinching viewpoint. And, indeed, pennies do add up to dollars, and dollars do add up to thousands of dollars, and so on.

Frugality is a virtue of long standing in both eastern and western cultures. Ben Franklin, for example, is credited with the observation, "A penny saved is a penny earned." If that Yankee practicality doesn't float your boat, then we can go way back, as in 2,500 years back, to the famous Chinese "Dao De Jing," which lists "frugality" as one of the three treasures of the sage.

Even the simplest bean counting sure speaks for itself on this note. If your wallet seeps just \$10 a day, that's \$300 a month, and, well, now we're talking real money. It sure adds up fast; that's the scary thing.

Anyway, such is my summary of these two concepts. The \$10 threshold I mentioned is an old one. If you want to account for inflation you could easily justify \$20 to provide contemporary equivalence. But what matters more than the dollar amount is the whole idea of either worrying about or not worrying about small expenditures, however you choose to define them.

Me, I'm in the laidback camp, probably owing to innate laziness. I just don't want to invest my scant brainpower in agonizing over small expenditures.

Furthermore, many of my jobs have involved utterly uncertain travel schedules, which is a stressful enough way to live, so I was never tempted to compound the stress by fretting over expenditures. If there's one thing I've learned when traveling, it's to make things

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



Deepening fiscal impotence

For most families throughout the Marianas Archipelago, the local economy is like a football team that can't move the ball, and it hasn't been able to do so for the last two decades. Disgusted and exhausted, we sit around the ball field waiting for sunset so we could go home without moving the ball, again.

Realistically, it's a tough ball to move without securing a new playbook that includes infusion of major investments with real capital for purposes of scaffolding the local economy. Moreover, it should be understood that only investments or businesses create jobs. And you can't have jobs without a business. Jobs create all incomes wherever investments are infused. It's commonsense economics.

Finally, is the NMI really prepared for major infusion of large capital investments? In other words, have we emplaced basic infrastructure to allow investments to move in tandem over the next year so? Or did we slam our larger than mouth foot for failing to do due diligence? BSI acknowledges lack of land, infrastructure and labor. Exactly my point!

Can the two Ralphs (Torres and Demapan) explain the rush to judgment on casino? Or do we join Sixto do the dives into the trench to see if our black box of bankruptcy still does the "ping"? Is profligate spending under control or is it still continuing but wrapped in imaginative denial?

Freebies galore: Is the NMI sinking into a permanent welfare entity? What's the implication that such is the seeming pathway today? Obviously this is attributable to the deepening economic depression at home. An economic depression is quadruple that of normal recession, the latter involves two quarters of zero-sum growth.

The harm against recipients moves in like a stealth bomber we

can't see on our radar screen. It drops the bomb and moves out of sight. The bomb is the reliance on entitlement freebies like food stamps, Medicaid, housing voucher, among others.

Would recipients still receive the same level of assistance when federal funds for these programs are spent or depleted? Who shoulders this obligation like the \$8.5 million SNAP when funds fade into the sunset? Please make it a point to take a quick glimpse into the narrative of these programs if there are sunset provisions. If so, then please brace for it in advance. I quite don't buy the notion of setting up the NMI for complete failure.

Recommended cuts: The NMI doesn't need a 29-member bicameral legislature. Cut it down to a 10-member body, one each for Tinian and Rota the rest from Saipan. After all, what has a bicameral legislature done in signature legislation that has substantially increased the economic wellbeing of our people?

There has to be realignment of responsibilities from the redundancy and waste of taxpayers' money we find in every office today. In one area, it requires major constitutional amendment to place our "indigenous" offices under a single roof.

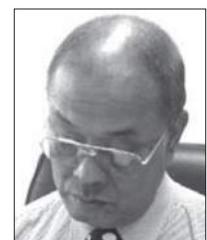
Let's use the Office of Indigenous Affairs as the overall umbrella, placing DPL, DCCA, MPLT, Carolinian and Women's affairs under it. Staff transfer shouldn't be done en masse but reduced to skeletal level, placing the most qualified folks to run these agencies. It should allow for purposeful collaboration and substantial cuts in excess baggage.

For instance, DPL's constitutional mandate is homestead development. It obviates the query: Does it really need over 90 drone staff people doing nothing daily at the expense of the indigenous landowners? Hello? The excess baggage must go! It takes coconuts, though, to get this done. Volunteers?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



As Netanyahu aims to save Israel, others aim to save face

of no ill consequences mapped out for stonewalling.

Understand that there is no reasonable doubt that Iranians have been pursuing nuclear weaponry—we would not otherwise even be talking to them—and that the only way the United States and other involved countries could get them to discuss the matter in the first place was sanctions threatening to wreck the Iranian economy.

During the talks, though, our side has let up on the sanctions and Iran's economy has been traipsing toward happy days again. Meanwhile, according to knowledgeable voices, laxity on the part of America and its partners has been such that Iran has gotten closer than ever to bomb-making capability and may already have an intercontinental ballistic missile system capable of delivering some sneakily developed pride and joy to our shores some day.

Congress has responded sensibly—it wants tough, new sanctions against Iran if it does not agree to something clearly and lastingly keeping its leaders from their worst ambitions. Obama has said he would veto any legislation to that effect, warning it could lead to a war, and Republican House Speaker John Boehner invited Netanyahu to bring his contrary powers of persuasion to a joint session on March 3. Some people are making a big deal of Netanyahu standing for election a couple of weeks after that,

and a New York Times editorial is among the voices saying, hey, a vote for sanctions could "sabotage" a successful deal.

Some have also lambasted Republicans as total jerks in all of this even though some of the toughest stances have been taken by such Democrats as Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey who said Obama seemed to be getting his "talking points" from Tehran. He and some other Democratic senators, however, are agreed on holding up a vote until near the end of March—several months before the third and final negotiating deadline—to see if Iran has conceded enough by that time to make breathing easy again.

I think a delay is wise enough, but to say there should be no threat of sanctions in the case of Iran refusing to do the right thing is absurd. The only deal such sanctions would sabotage would be a weak deal far more likely to end up in war than a strong deal. Netanyahu is playing politics, it is said, but if I were an Israeli voter, the thing that would most infuriate me would be that he was not seeking responsible U.S. action. I also believe congressional intervention is absolutely justified. Obama, after all, is not excluded in the fashion he has so often excluded Congress in his executive orders: He still has his veto power.

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

In one constitutionally dubious, unilateral action after another over the years, President Barack Obama has shown that he thinks the U.S. government is him, him and—wait, a minute, is there a third party, maybe? Yes, it is him.

Now, it turns out that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is coming to Washington in early March to talk to that abused legislative branch called Congress about ways to keep Iran from going nuclear and wiping his country off the map, and guess how the president feels?

That's not OK. Everything should be him!

Some of us looking on from afar think it is in fact more than OK, that the president was out of line not to have invited this ally to come by the White House, too, and that an anonymous White House source should have his mouth taped for having said that Netanyahu "will pay a price" for this visit.

The really scary thing, though, is why the trip is necessary. It's the fear that this bumbling administration will negotiate a nuclear agreement with terrorist-aiding Iran with insufficient safeguards to prevent its proceeding happily on its weapons-of-mass-destruction path or fail to get any agreement at all because

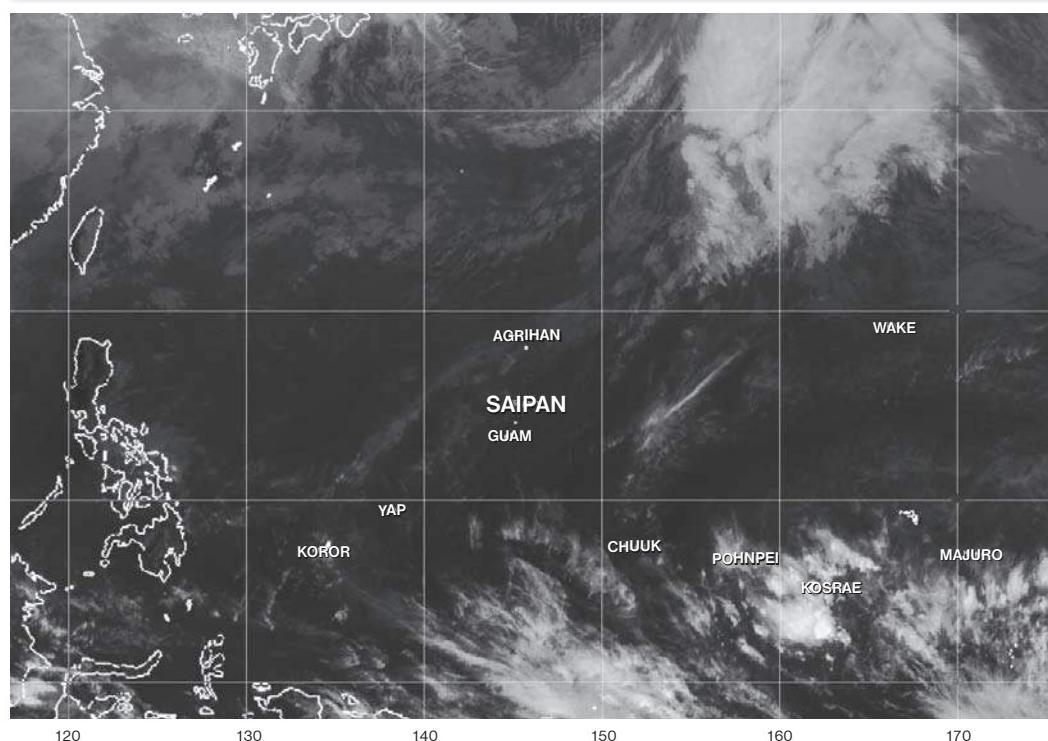
By JAY AMBROSE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts southwestward from just northeast of Minami Tori Shima from a circulation at 25N156E to become a shear line in the vicinity of the Northern Marianas near 17N144E. The shear line continues southwestward to beyond 130E at 10N. Scattered showers are found in the vicinity of the cold front and circulation over Minami Tori Shima north of 22N from 152E to 163E and along and within 100 miles north of the cold front from 22N154E to 17N144E. Low clouds and patchy rain are seen within 100 miles along and northwest of the shear line from 17N144E to north of Yap at 11N137E. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from south of Mindanao through 2N130E to end near the equator south of Chuuk at EQ151E. Scattered showers are found between the equator and 2N from 146E to 152E. Convergent east winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms around Kosrae and south of Pohnpei, Kwajalein and Majuro between 2N and 6N from 152E to 175E and between 4N and 7N from 175E to east of the date line.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 65
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 2 ▼ -7
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 59
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 68
London	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 68 ▼ 52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 69
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 54
Miami	Showers	▲ 76 ▼ 53
New York	Snow	▲ 29 ▼ 27
Osaka	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 36
Paris	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 36
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 25
Rome	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 37
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 54
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 33 ▼ 14
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 61 ▼ 40
Washington, DC	Ice	▲ 38 ▼ 32

Tides

5:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
3:40 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:17 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:22 AM	2:37 AM
Saturday	3:13 AM	3:29 AM
Sunday	4:03 PM	4:19 AM
Monday	4:53 PM	5:07 AM
Tuesday	5:43 PM	5:52 AM

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA5068 8:00am 8:50am 3				UA5071 6:40am 7:30am 3			
UA5068 8:40am 9:30am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7				UA5071 7:15am 8:05am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
UA5039 2:20pm 4:00pm 6, 7 via Rota				UA5039 1:00pm 1:50pm 6, 7			
UA5078 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 5				UA5038 1:10pm 2:40pm 2, 4 via Rota			
UA5038 3:10pm 4:00pm 2, 4				UA5077 1:50pm 2:40pm 1, 5			
UA5040 6:55pm 7:45pm 1, 5				UA5041 5:35pm 6:25pm 1, 5			
UA5078 8:35pm 9:25pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7				UA5077 7:15pm 8:05pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7			
UA5044 10:40pm 11:30pm 1, 5				UA5043 9:20pm 10:10pm 1, 5			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039 2:20pm 2:55pm 6, 7				UA5038 1:00pm 1:35pm 2, 4			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039 3:25pm 4:00pm 6, 7				UA5038 2:05pm 2:40pm 2, 4			
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287 6:05am 1:10am+1 2, 6 via NRT				DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6				DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily			
DL297 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily				DL288 8:55pm 1:25am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily			
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				7C 3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily			

Reforming the CNMI healthcare system

By GRANT E. WALKER, M.D.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the testimony offered by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Grant E. Walker in reference to Senate Bill 19-04, which proposes to transform the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. advisory board into a governing body.

Fourth part of a series

When I began to look at the hospital bylaws, the hospital operations manual for the process of credentialing physicians and Public Law 16-51 I found that PL 16-51 set up the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for failure. It created enclaves of power without any oversight. There was no process for the people to elect officials to oversee CHCC. In some wacky move, someone decided to put a CEO in charge of medicine at the CNMI's only hospital? What training does a CEO have to make such doctor-patient related decisions? What previous hospital CEO training did this CEO even have at all? Under PL 16-51 the CEO's power was ultimate and unchecked. The board of trustees was impotent under PL 16-51.

Why did I write previous newspaper articles entitled,

"The History of Healthcare in America" and letters to the editor on "Oversight"? Remember those 28 years in American healthcare? I wanted to tell you that the rules of CMS Medicare are born out of the Social Security Act. Here are a couple of them:

■ 42 C.F.R. §§ 422.503(b)(4)(vi)(B), 423.504(b)(4)(vi)(B). The sponsor's governing body (e.g., board of directors or board of trustees) must exercise reasonable oversight with respect to the implementation and effectiveness of the sponsor's compliance program.

■ 42 C.F.R. §§ 422.503(b)(4)(vi)(A), 423.504(b)(4)(vi)(A). Standards of Conduct, also known in some organizations as the "Code of Conduct" or by other similar names, state the overarching principles and values by which the company operates, and define the underlying framework for the compliance policies and procedures. Standards of Conduct should describe the sponsor's expectations that all employees conduct themselves in an ethical manner; that issues of noncompliance and potential FWA are reported through appropriate mechanisms; and that reported issues will be addressed and corrected.

■ 42 C.F.R. §§ 422.503(b)(4)(vi)(B), 423.504(b)(4)(vi)(B). Sponsors must have a compli-

ance committee in place that oversees the Medicare compliance program. The sponsor need not have a separate Medicare compliance committee, as long as the committee addresses Medicare compliance issues. In many organizations, the compliance committee is chaired by the compliance officer. The compliance committee serves to advise the compliance officer. The compliance committee is accountable to, and must provide regular compliance reports...

After reading just these three laws, is it any wonder why CHC is in trouble with Medicare? For the longest time there was no compliance officer. An experienced CEO just plainly knows these laws and they play by the rules of society. The position of CEO is short and not a lifelong appointment. No one person can ever be above the interest of a corporation, whether it be public or private, an employee or an owner.

My many thanks go out to the board of trustees. A resolution, CHC 14-02, was issued in February 2014 granting me privileges and the basic message was that due process was not followed and found that, as investigated by the board, the accusations made lacked validity or merit. In plain language, they were false. This was swiftly followed by a second board

resolution, a non-confidence vote censuring the CEO.

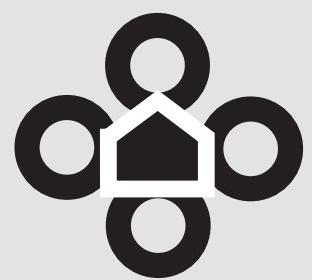
What did the CEO have to say? She snubbed her nose at the board and implied that they were powerless to do anything about it. Who were they? She had all of the unchecked power.

Now I like a good debate and I have pretty thick skin that can withstand an attack. But this problem was no longer about Dr. Walker; it was about you as citizens. Patients were hurt. Former representative Ana Teregeyo (with permission) lost her leg. I know because I participated in her sixth and final reconstructive surgery at the Las Vegas Trauma Center. This was no longer about pointing fingers. No one can say, "We never had a problem." This is your world on those tiny islands

in the middle of the Pacific. You are the owners of the fix for this problem and you can do it!

Great ideas are developed. I thought, why not put the tools in place whereby a strategic organizational chart, with oversight, could set the stage for growth and expansion of services and facilities? Why not attract more private doctors? Why not get their Medicaid payments out of the control of the CHCC CEO? Why not create partnerships between the private and public sectors to build \$1.5 million to \$2 million surgical centers/mini hospitals in underserved areas like Tinian and Rota where patients such as that elderly Japanese man don't have to travel so far and risk a fracture fat embolism or blood clot going to his

See REFORMING on Next Page



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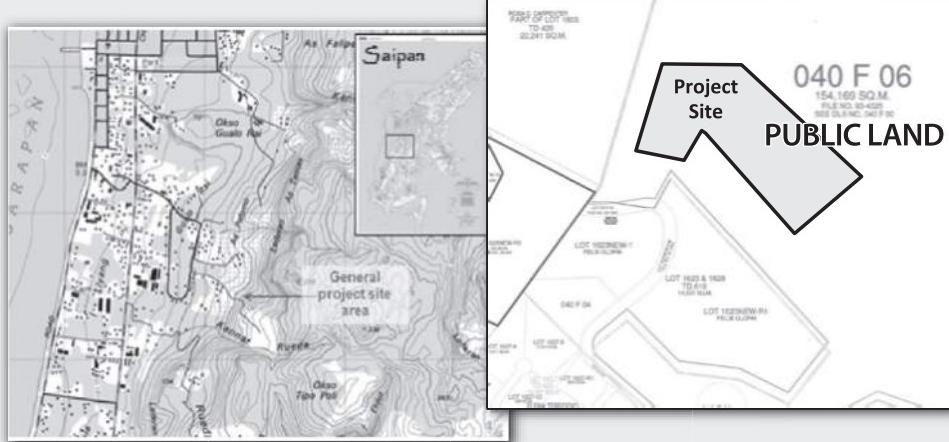
NOTIFICATION OF ADJACENT NEIGHBORS

PROPOSED CUC GEO-THERMAL EXPLORATORY WELL DRILLING PROJECT

GUALO RAI, SAIPAN

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is presently reviewing a Major Siting Permit application package for an exploratory well drilling project that is being proposed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC). The proposed action involves drilling CUC well GR-6 (existing) to a deeper depth. The project is exploratory and drilling would last approximately three months.

The proposed project is in response to a Request for Proposals by the CUC to collect and evaluate scientific data and make recommendations regarding the development of geothermal energy on Saipan (CUC RFP 14-001). The project site is approximately 0.72 acres in size and located on Public Land surrounding CUC Well No. GR-6 (Lot No. 040-F-046) and is accessed via Earhart Drive. The project site is surrounded by forested areas. As noted on a land plat of the site, adjacent neighbors include Mr. Felix Olopai and Ms. Rosa C. Carpenter.



If you are interested in learning more about the project, please contact the local DCRM Office located at the Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please contact the DCRM at 664.8300 if you have questions or would like to learn more about the project; Permit application Number SMS-2014-X-054.!

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(Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address:plebechamp80@gmail.com)
or Ben Sablan (Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com)
or Call 234-2585/235-9020

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why the CNMI needs healthcare reform...now!

When the Commonwealth Health Center was in its infancy and planning stage in 1980, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands were proud that a 75-bed hospital, fully equipped with the state-of-the-art modern medical equipment will be built. It was envisioned to provide quality care and service to its population and reduce the need for off-island medical referral. It was highly supported by families from the islands of Rota, Tinian, Saipan and the islands north of Saipan. It was noteworthy in the entire region as it was the best, most up-to-date and technically advanced medical facility of its kind, capable of providing top-notch professional and highest quality healthcare to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Thirty-five years later, we continue to experience reduced appropriation from the CNMI government, problems on billings and collections, lack of trained administrative personnel, lack of medical professionals in the area of specialized fields such as diabetes, cardiologist, pulmonologist, and a U.S. educated and trained orthopedic surgeon for bones, muscles and joints, to name a few. I have to ask myself, why? Why do we think of ourselves

as only worthy of Third World medicine? Perhaps the acceptance of medical care noted to be that of a lesser standard than the Philippines, while CMS/Medicare pays and expects value for its payments, is the reason we are constantly in trouble with them. This is not rocket science. Do we need to do an inventory of what types of professional medical care and service the people need most or are we stuck in a loop, a kind of jigsaw puzzle, constantly reinventing what has already been invented before, trying to determine what we want to have and not making decisions based upon the needs of the general population, whose health is getting statistically worse? Do we have care based upon the ever aging, single hospital equipment facility and out-of-date supplies? What happened to us? What happened to that technically advanced medical facility that now seems as though it cannot even pay its electrical bill? Healthcare reform will provide the House/Senate committees with the tools to determine exactly what is needed and how to once again deliver quality healthcare. Once established, the House/Senate committees on health care will be in a better position to do an oversight

of the hospital governing board of trustees and chief executive officer. They must appear before a joint committee of the House and Senate and submit to the presiding officers of the Legislature and the respective chairmen of the House/Senate health committees a quarterly progress report or an annual activity report not later than 30 days after the end of a calendar year. The reports as submitted by the CHCC will assist the joint committees on healthcare with ideas to determine how we can best deliver a quality health care system that our islands and her people deserve!

Perhaps not many people knew of my sudden disappearance from the island, most especially my absence during the recently completed campaign season throughout the CNMI. I did not voluntarily choose to be away during an election year, but I had to go to the Las Vegas Trauma Center on June 20, 2014, to get the professional and quality medical care that CHC failed to provide when I was still an inpatient from Nov. 2, 2013, to Nov. 27, 2013. I was recovering from an operation on my left leg, a tibia bone shattered into more than nine pieces and a damaged kneecap. My former orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Grant E. Walker, was instrumental

in securing my appointments for treatment at the Las Vegas Trauma Center, a faculty medical teaching center in Nevada. He discussed my case with two other orthopedic surgeons who joined to operate on what became six additional staged and sequenced surgeries. Dr. Walker never took a dime for any of this because that is his character. He did it because of the need to help someone whom he had once been responsible for and a person who had been mistreated and misdiagnosed by CHC and who would have had her leg amputated! The orthopedic p.a. just told me to "just go home." Visit after visit I had no x-rays because it took so long to get an x-ray at CHC that the p.a. would just become frustrated and say, "Ah, we'll do it next time." When the next day came, there was yet another, "Well, we'll just have to do it next time."

I will be returning to my homeland, Saipan, hopefully in March of this year, and God

Thank you, CUC

I would like to thank the staff of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., most especially to Miss Mariana Cango and Miss Maricon Allen, for their understanding and big help with my water problem. Right that same day, after submitting all the papers required, my problem was solved. Keep up the good work. Have a nice day.

Grace Brooks
San Roque, Saipan

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dormant Deposit Accounts

The deposit listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan have been inactive. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts, please make your claim at the Chalan Kanoa Branch of Bank of Saipan before March 30, 2015.

Name
Classic Electric Models, Ltd.
Zena C. Manglona/Richard S. Manglona/Jessica C. Barcenas
Pilsun Kwon
Saipan Youth Football League
Northern Marianas Junior Golf League Inc.
Taek Soo Chun
Chun Xian Zhang
Wen Ping Jiang
Jose Ramos
Li Yao

Pursuant to Public Law 17-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after March 30, 2014 will be paid to the "CNMI Treasurer" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after March 30, 2015 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.

Sincerely,
The Bank of Saipan

willing, walking! It is painful, both physically and emotionally, to go through six surgeries in all, counting the one at CHC. It is noteworthy that having to go through surgeries for six times in a very short time in a matter of months is a very risky undertaking for any human being. The pre-operation procedure requires an administration of general sedation or regional anesthesia medication before surgery. Of the six surgeries, I was under a general anesthesia for the five, with one regional anesthesia of the spine for a knee reconstruction surgery. There are risks involved in any of the three forms of anesthesia medication, depending on the person's health condition prior to surgery. Based on general understanding, anesthesia medication provides comfort and maintain vital life functions by putting a person into deep sleep during surgery so that a person may not feel pain. With a lot of physical therapy ahead and the help of some very talented surgeons, I hope to make a full recovery some day. Having gone through all the surgeries gave me a great deal of insight for what it is like to be a patient and helpless at the hands of CHC. I have read the CEO's newspaper articles and I tried to reason with her while I was an inpatient. I now know that it is my destiny to use the gift of my political experience and challenge myself to help those who are and will be in the situation that I found myself as a patient. I feel determined, more than ever, pray that I will receive His grace and start walking again after more than one year in a wheelchair.

Personally, I cannot over-emphasize the need for a quality, full time, U.S. trained, board certified orthopedic surgeon in the CNMI! I have never found any physician or

patient that had anything other than excellent things to say about Dr. Grant E. Walker. Dr. LaVene, a senior surgeon at CHC, once commented that Dr. Walker perhaps is the best ortho surgeon he has seen in his career. Dr. LaVene assisted during my initial operation at CHC on Nov. 7, 2013. How did we do such a poor job of keeping him? Look, bad things can happen to good people. Any of us, at any time can get into orthopedic trouble regardless of the physical location of an individual. Accidents do not discriminate. I am aware of several individuals who are still inpatients at our lone, struggling public hospital and they are suffering for a long time with bone and joint related illnesses. As a family member, do you want them to recover and be active again? What is the usefulness of a life worth? An orthopedic doctor can certainly provide professional medical care to anyone who needs help in our time of need. It is time to reach out and correct the wrong caused. It is necessary to reach out to other specialists. It is time to bring quality healthcare back to the people. More than ever, it is time for health care reform!

Ana Sablan Teregeyo
San Vicente, Saipan

REFORMING

From Page 13

lungs and killing him because of the transport?

Why not put some of this, say, back in the hands of the mayors, elected by the people of Tinian and Rota? Hey, why not put the direction of healthcare back in the hands of the elected Senate and House Healthcare Committees who could then neatly provide the oversight that the people need to the board of trustees, who would not run the day-to-day CEO show but could also provide the necessary CEO oversight?

Why not restructure CHCC into two parallel functioning arms: the administrative side headed by the CEO who runs day to day operations and the medical professional arm headed by physician peer review committees who oversee and are educated to oversee the doctors? No patient would have the doctor-patient relationship severed. Anything that falls too far out of the standards of care and caused a problem could swiftly be heard by the peer review committees made up of all, I repeat, all of the physicians themselves. Any recommendation for reprimand, suspension, or dismissal of privileges would ultimately be carried out by the board of trustees in the same way a malpractice judge or jury adjudicates a court case. I cannot take credit for making this stuff up, I was taught.

To be continued.

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-15

INVITATION FOR BID

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Trash Collection Services for a period of two years at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Friday, January 30, 2015. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for the Trash Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport, Project On. CPA-IFB-003-15". One original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Departure Terminal Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 10:00 am, Friday, February 13, 2015 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders may attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

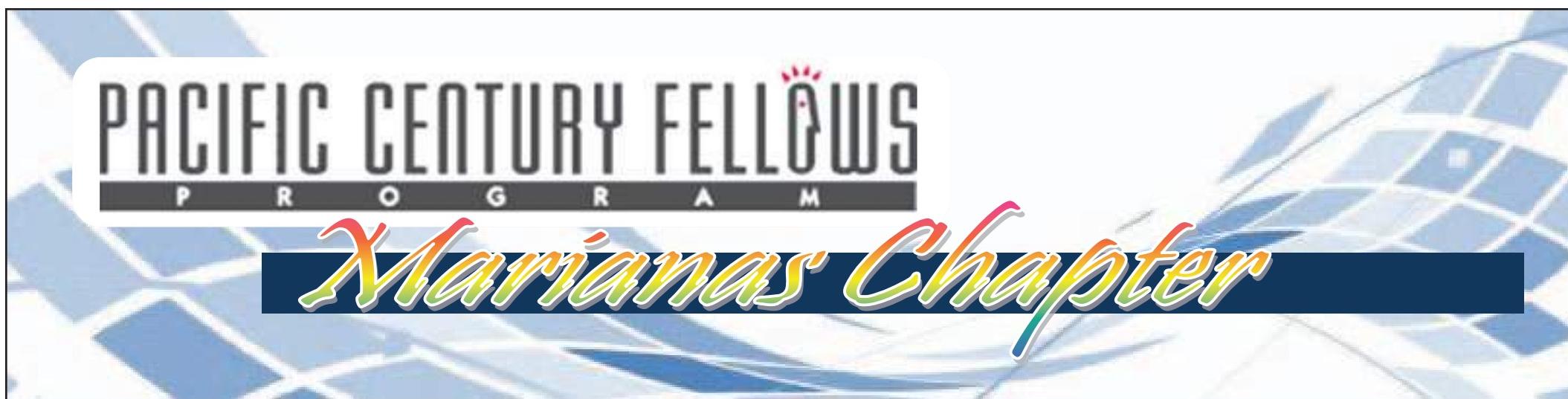
CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of bidder's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Date: January 23, 2015



Be part of the solution. Become a Fellow.

The PCF Marianas Chapter is a non-profit, leadership development program that runs for one year incorporating periodic sessions covering current issues facing the CNMI.

Bright minds brought together can make a world of difference. With the challenges we face in our CNMI, there has never been a greater need for leaders to start working better together.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **February 27th:** Application deadline
- **March 14th:** Selection Saturday (Mandatory)
- **March 27th - 28th:** Mandatory Weekend Retreat

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be between the ages of 25-45
- Submit completed application
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation
- Must be able to attend weekend retreat and meet minimum attendance requirement.

A tuition fee is assessed following selection to cover fellowship expenses for the entire year. Financial assistance is available, see website for details.

To request an application or for more information, please visit our website at **www.pcf-marianas.com** or contact Maggie Sablan or Merlie Tolentino at 234-0609 ext 117/118 or send an email to administrator@pcf-marianas.com.



"Fellows will be in an environment that will foster open mindedness, creativity and constructive problem solving... Fellows will be better able to lead, not only in their respective industries, but in the bigger picture of the com-munities they serve and the islands in which they live."



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan receives one of the 2015 awards for leadership in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and Educational Innovation from representatives of sponsoring organizations the Edison Electric Institute and STEM4US! at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kilili honored for his leadership on education

anas High School Aeronautical Dolphins. The Dolphins won the national Real World Design competition in 2013.

"In 2011 I was contacted by Mr. John Raulerson, a teacher, who had recently started an aviation class at our Marianas High School," Sablan told the assembled educators.

"He had 16 students. They were enthusiastic about learning the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math of flying. But they only had three textbooks.

"So I reached out to the Pentagon and we found 40 excess copies of an aviation textbook down at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. And we got those textbooks into the hands of those students."

The following year, Sablan continued, the Aeronautical Dolphins won their regional competition, came to Washington, and took eighth place in the nationals. In 2013 they again won at the regional level and came to nationals with the design for an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to use in remote search and rescue and with a business plan to market their design.

"This time, they took first place," Sablan said proudly, "against students from private schools and well-funded public schools in Connecticut and Massachusetts and California. Six students, from a faraway place, with just a few years of experience, won a national STEM competition."

Sablan thanked attendees for his award and recounted the story of the Northern Mariana Islands' own Real World Design Challenge team, the Mari-

ica has tremendous, untapped potential that should be given the opportunity to grow.

"We have to invest in our students, invest in education—and by doing so, invest in the future of America."

"I am on the House Education and the Workforce Committee. In the next weeks we are going to be working to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. And we will have a simple choice: invest in education, invest in America's future or short-change our students and our nation."

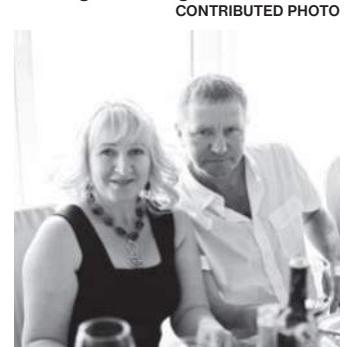
"America cannot afford to have schools where 16 students have to share three textbooks—or beg for books from the Pentagon."

Also co-sponsoring last night's awards ceremony were some of the top education and innovation leaders in the nation, including the Edison Electric Institute, United Negro College Fund, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Pepco, Minority Media Telecom & Internet Council, and USA Science & Engineering Festival. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to Pratoom Stoffer, shown here at right. May you have many more years to come. Enjoy your day. Greetings come from Aguida Villagomez.



Advanced happy birthday greetings go out to Vladimir Pilipenko, who will celebrate his special day on Jan. 31. Dear Vova, we want to congratulate you for yet another 20-years-old birthday! May you never ever get to see any doctors! Forget the past, look forward to the future for the best things are yet to come. Be surrounded by only those who love and care about you. Greetings come from your Saipan friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) RUNWAY VACUUM SWEEPER** to the FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0002-80, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Procurement and Delivery of One (1) Runway Vacuum Sweeper to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-80", and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new manually operated runway vacuum sweeper for the Saipan International Airport designed especially for use in cleaning pavements to remove debris, dirt and dust from routed cracks of the pavement, all in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The procurement is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED (300) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the awarded bidder for each calendar day the completion of the delivery is delayed beyond the completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, February 13, 2015**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", and all other required forms and information as required, stipulated and contained in the bid proposal documents and specifications, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

The proposed agreement is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-14(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A bidder having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: January 20, 2015

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room, Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of January 8, 2015 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings.

- 1. Conditional Use Application #2014-3151:** The Honest Profit International Limited (HPIL) has submitted a request with justification to amend the total number of parking spaces for its development as required in Article 9 of the Saipan Zoning Law.
- 2. Conditional Use Application #2015-0326:** Unicorn Corporation is proposing to manufacture and retail concrete hollow blocks. This use is classified as "Manufacturing and Processing" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is identified as lot 030 B 21 in Tanapag village, and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
- 3. Conditional Use Application #2014-028:** Saipan International Real Estate Development Corp. dba: Ocean Vista Resort is proposing to operate a hotel with villas and residential uses. This use is classified as a "Planned Development" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on lots H 328-4, H-328-1, and TR 21698 on Capital Hill along Isa Drive. These areas are zoned as Rural.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

1. None

E. New Business

1. Office Operations Report (Permit and Enforcement)
2. Review and Adoption of revised Zoning Fees

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogunoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Lions Clubs donate brochures to anti-cancer group



Commonwealth Cancer Association program manager Juan L. Babauta, left, receives the brochures donated by the Lions Clubs International, District 204 Region 2.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Lions Clubs International, District 204 Region 2 turned over some brochures from the Lions Clubs Health Fair to the Commonwealth Cancer Association, which participated in the medical mission held on Jan. 11, 2015, at the Daidai Social Hall.

The turnover was headed by Region 2 chair Lion Ladyvir Canape, with CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta accepting the donations.

Canape was joined at the turnover by Region 2 PRO Lion Annamae Adaza, Lion Prexy Nenita Marquez of Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club, Lion Lucy Buensalido, Lion Argie Buensalido, Lion Adriallen Dela Cruz of Saipan Unity Lions Club, Lion Olive Yana, Lion Florenda Miranda, and Lion president Nelida

Atalig of Saipan Marianas Lions Club.

The CCA's mission is to advocate for a cancer-free CNMI through public education and awareness about cancer prevention and screening, and to provide support to cancer patients,

survivors and their families through community partnerships and programs.

The brochures were donated by Guam Harmony Lions Club, represented by 2nd Vice District Governor Lion Linda Tolan at the health fair.

"CCA can use the brochures

in their awareness programs about cancer, healthy living, high blood pressure, diabetes, and proper diet, among others," said Adaza.

The LCI-D204 Region 2 Lions Clubs is composed of the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club, Saipan Marianas

Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Tinian Marianas Lions Club and Rota Marianas Lions Club. Those interested in joining the Lions Club may call Canape at 989-2545 or Lion Mario Mayuga at 285-1021 for the details.

"The Lions Club's motto is 'We Serve.' That's why the Lions members are here to assist the community. In our own little way, we can always make a difference if we work together for the betterment of the community," said Adaza. (PR)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the public that

Oasis Dive Corporation, with postal address of PMB 628 P.O. BOX 10000, Saipan MP 96950 has closed the business and was dissolved as of January 28, 2015.

BOATS FOR SALE

■ 54' BERTRAM ■ 29' TOPAZ ■ 31' ISLAND HOPPER
■ 23' ALUMINUM DIVE BOAT ■ 21' INTERCEPTOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
PACIFIC MARINE ENTERPRISES, INC

TEL: 670-2330744 EMAIL: pme@pticom.com/pme_danilyn@hotmail.com

YUEYANG INTERNATIONAL DBA FISHERMAN'S WHARF SEAFOODS RESTAURANT IMMEDIATE HIRING

3-Cooks
6-Waitresses
1-Kitchen Helper
1-Bartender

Salary will commensurate to experience and qualifications. Must have work related experience. U.S. qualified workers preferred, but not required. Interested applicants, please call 233-0903 or 783-0309 and look for Marj or Cindy or apply in person at Tun Kiku's Building at Garapan, Middle Road.

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HELPING YOU FIND THE PROPERTY OF YOUR DREAMS.
WE HELP PEOPLE IN BUYING, SELLING AND LEASING PROPERTY.
MAKING YOUR REALTY DREAMS A REALITY.

Tel: 670-233-0903 • Cell: 670-783-0309

Business Development Manager - China

Bridge Immigration Investments is seeking a highly motivated and driven Business Professional with a proven track record of success to support our growing Residence and Citizenship-by-Investment business, primarily focusing on our US EB5 Visa Program.

Core Competencies and Experience

- You are energetic, self-motivated, outgoing, hands-on and willing to take the initiative, with very strong negotiation skills
- You are able to self-manage and are goal and results driven
- Your interpersonal, oral and written communication, presentation and organizational skills are excellent
- You demonstrate passion, persistence, creativity and a determination to get things done
- You have verifiable success in working in the legal, financial services, real estate or 'immigrant investor' industries
- Knowledge and experience of the 'immigrant investor' market is preferable but not essential
- An undergraduate degree in Law, Business, Economics or Marketing is ideal
- You must have a willingness to travel
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office products including, but not limited to, Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint
- Excellent command of written and spoken English and Chinese.

Responsibilities

- Reporting to the CEO of the Saipan office, you will be accountable for generating significant business revenue each year, and meeting agreed sales and business targets as defined by management
- Developing new business via developing sales and marketing channels with Marketing Agents in China
- Working with other internal departments to develop appropriate solutions in order to maximize business success
- Planning, preparing, and executing high impact meetings with client prospects and potential partners
- Helping with the preparation and translation of our marketing collaterals in to Chinese
- Maximizing revenue growth with existing accounts and our partner base
- Representing Bridge Immigration at industry events and conferences

Scope

- Salary: From USD 2,500 plus excellent commission driven compensation (depending on experience). Accommodation in Saipan can be provided for the first 2 months.
- Applicants will be primarily based in our Saipan head office but will be expected to travel reasonably regularly
- Applicants with networks and interest in developing the China market will be considered for this role

Contact

A full Curriculum Vitae and Covering Letter should be sent to Philip James at phil.james@bccnmi.com

Bridge Capital, LLC, PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950

Executive Assistant Job Description

Our fast-growing international investment company, based in the CNMI, is looking for an Executive Assistant to support the Vice President/Chief Operational Officer with his day-to-day administrative needs and organizational duties. The responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Responsible for the effective coordination and follow-up of the activities and commitments of the VP/COO by producing and managing a master calendar of key events, dates, and deadlines that are critical to the conduct of the company's business.
- Researches, prioritizes, and follows up on incoming issues and concerns addressed to the VP/COO and determines the appropriate course of action, referral or response. Exercises sound judgment by keeping the VP/COO abreast of any issues that may arise internally and/or externally which could potentially impact the VP/COO or the company as a whole.
- Composes and prepares correspondence that may be confidential in nature. Communicates with a high degree of discretion, via phone, email, and US mail to directors, councils, management, staff, public, vendors, and other organizations.
- Prioritizes conflicting demands; handles matters expeditiously, proactively and follows through on projects to successful completion.
- Provides high level research and editorial support to the VP/COO.
- Arranges corporate travel and meetings by developing itineraries and agendas; booking flights and other transportation; arranging lodging and meeting accommodations.
- Completes projects and special assignments by establishing objectives; determining priorities; managing time; gaining cooperation of others; monitoring progress; problem solving; making adjustments to plans.
- Organizes relevant documents to be reviewed by VP/COO to be catalogued into the Company's database.
- Performs other duties as necessary.
- Requirements:
- Excellent oral and written communication and human relation skills.
- Must work well in a team environment and must be able to build and maintain effective working relationships.
- Ability to maintain and protect the confidentiality of information.
- Must be poised, patient, courteous, and maintain a professional manner.
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule to achieve the needs of the company.
- Must be detail oriented, results oriented, and be able to multi-task and work in a fast paced environment.
- Must work well under pressure, set and meet deadlines, be able to manage several priorities in a day.
- Must be dependable, adaptable, creative, and self-motivated.
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience is required.
- Administrative support in legal industry or related field preferred.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

Bridge Capital, LLC, PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950
or email at reneacia.sannicolas@bccnmi.com

Marketing Executive / Personal Assistant (Chinese Speaking)

Bridge Immigration Investments is seeking a highly motivated and driven Business Professional with a proven track record of success to support our growing Residence and Citizenship-by-Investment business, primarily focusing on our US EB5 Visa Program.

Job Descriptions:

- Collect necessary information from related parties and generate various reports such as sales reports and market analysis in English or Chinese;
- Translate relevant news / articles and other information in different languages (English/Chinese) and share the information with management;
- Assist the CEO to create monthly reports;
- Assist Senior Management to prepare presentation materials in Chinese;
- Work with our IT department to translate / add Chinese content on our websites
- Perform general administration duties including but not limited to filing, meeting preparation, travel bookings, online research etc.;
- Support the CEO in day-to-day operations

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor Degree in Business Management, Administration and Marketing or related disciplines;
- 2 years or above working experience and experience in the legal, financial services, real estate or 'immigrant investor' industries preferred
- Well versed with PC applications like MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Chinese Word

Processing:

- Excellent command of both spoken and written English and Chinese;
- Self-motivated, good writing and presentation skills
- Energetic and outgoing personality

Scope

- Salary: From USD 1,500 plus annual bonus. Short term accommodation will be provided.
- Applicants will need to work in our head office in Saipan then may be expected to travel between head office and China with the CEO

Contact

A full Curriculum Vitae and Covering Letter should be sent to Philip James at phil.james@bccnmi.com

Bridge Capital, LLC, PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950

Business

Battle of the big phones: Samsung down in China, Apple gains

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung lost the battle of the big phones last quarter as Apple's copycat large iPhone lured buyers in the crucial Chinese market.

The South Korean company said Thursday its profit sank last quarter, with an improvement in its semiconductor business insufficient to mask its mobile problems.

It was in China, the world's largest market for smartphones, where Samsung's dramatic decline was most evident.

Samsung accounted for nearly one third of global smartphone sales in 2013, twice as much as Apple. This year, it has dropped to about one quarter.

Apple Inc. was behind Samsung's latest reversal in fortune, launching iPhones with bigger screens that robbed Samsung's Galaxy phones of a key selling point. The company was already battling competition in low-end phones from upstart manufacturers such as China's



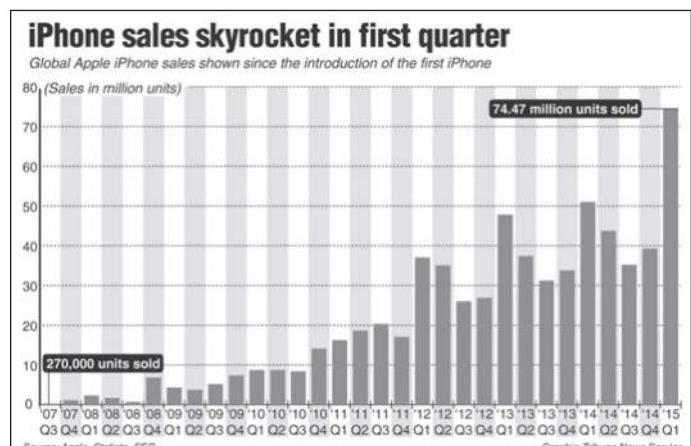
Xiaomi.

In the second quarter last year, Xiaomi overtook Samsung to become the biggest selling smartphone maker in China. Samsung now ranks third in

that market, after Apple raced to the top in the fourth quarter, according to research company Canalys.

Samsung is struggling in countries such as China because

"they're sort of being eaten from the bottom up by regional players" including Huawei and Xiaomi, said Ben Bajaran, an analyst at Silicon Valley research firm Creative Strategies.



An advertisement poster shows Apple's iPhone 6 Plus, top, and Samsung Electronics' Galaxy NOTE 4 at a mobile phone shop in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015.

Samsung, on the other hand, reported its fourth straight drop in quarterly earnings. Profit sank 27 percent to 5.3 trillion won (\$4.9 billion).

Until September, Apple lacked one thing that Samsung and other phone-makers had: a supersized smartphone screen. Apple's older iPhone 5 had a screen that measured 4 inches diagonally, while screens of 5 inches or larger have been the standard in Asia for more than a year. The new iPhone 6 measures 4.7 inches and the 6 Plus is 5.5 inches. And that's made a huge difference.

McDonald's CEO steps down as sales decline

NEW YORK (AP)—McDonald's CEO Don Thompson is stepping down as the world's biggest hamburger chain fights to hold onto customers and transform its image.

The company said Thompson, who has been CEO for two-and-a-half years, will be replaced by Steve Easterbrook, a company veteran who rejoined McDonald's as its chief brand officer in 2013.

McDonald's Corp., which has more than 36,000 locations around the world, is struggling amid intensifying competition and changing attitudes about food. Customer traffic at established locations in the U.S. fell 4.1 percent last year, following a 1.6 percent decline in 2013. It's also trying to recover after a supplier scandal in China that damaged its reputation.

On Wednesday, McDonald's said Thompson will retire March 1 after nearly 25 years with the company. Thompson, 51, was the first African-American to head the company since it was founded in 1955.

"It's tough to say goodbye to the McFamily, but there is a

time and season for everything," he said in a statement.

A representative for McDonald's said an unspecified number of employees at the company's headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois and elsewhere were also notified of layoffs on Wednesday.

In after-hours trading, shares of McDonald's jumped 3 percent to \$91.79. The stock has declined about 6 percent in the past year while broader markets are up in the double digits.

FAST FOOD IS JUNK FOOD

McDonald's is trying to shake perceptions that fast-food is cheap, greasy and made with mysterious ingredients.

To dispel myths about its food, the company recently launched a campaign inviting people to ask frank, sometimes squeamish questions about its menu offerings, such as "Does McDonald's beef contain worms?" and "Do McDonald's buns contain the same chemicals used to make yoga mats?"

Part of the problem for McDonald's and other traditional fast-food chains is that people are gravitating toward food they feel is more wholesome or made

with higher quality ingredients. And newer places like Chipotle and Panera are positioning their food as just that.

Mike Andres, president of McDonald's USA, said last month that the company is looking at shrinking the number of ingredients it uses and employing different cooking procedures to enhance the appeal of its food.

"Why do we need to have preservatives in our food?" Andres asked. "We probably don't."

BLOATED MENU, CLUMSY SERVICE

McDonald's has conceded its menu in the U.S. has gotten bloated. In just the past decade, the company has said it added 100 items to its menu. That slows down service because it takes customers longer to figure out what they want, while also complicating kitchen operations.

It also increases the chances that orders will be wrong.

As such, McDonald's is rolling out a simplified menu that reduces the number of Value Meals, and trims items that may be repetitive, such as variations of the Quarter Pounder with different toppings.

Facebook's status update: Profit, revenue beat expectations

NEW YORK (AP)—For the seventh quarter in a row Facebook beat profit and revenue forecasts, continuing to win more mobile advertising revenue as most users shift to using the site on smartphones and other portable devices.

The world's biggest online social network said Wednesday that advertising revenue jumped 53 percent to \$3.59 billion for the fourth quarter—with mobile ad revenue representing 69 percent of the total. That percentage has grown steadily in each quarter of this year.

Facebook's massive user base also expanded. It had 1.39 billion monthly active users at the end of the year, up 13 percent from a year earlier. Daily users totaled 890 million, up 18 percent. Mobile monthly active users jumped 26 percent to 1.19 billion.

"The bigger Facebook gets, it cements its position as one of the most dominant players in digital media, and it has the size and reach to change the rules of digital advertising and convince others to play by them," said Debra Aho Williamson, an analyst at research firm eMarketer.

Facebook, which turns 11 years old this year, began offering mobile ads in 2012, the year its stock began publicly trading. More recently, Face-

book expanded into video ads, which are very lucrative, and last year it re-launched Atlas, a tool for marketers to better target people across devices, platforms and publishers and to measure how well the ads work.

Facebook had a "strong quarter capping off a really great year," Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg said in an interview.

She called 2014 the year Facebook completed the shift to mobile, and said the company will continue to make investments to build its business this year. When it comes to Facebook's ad business, the focus is squarely mobile. Sandberg said that in the U.S., 25 percent of consumers' time spent on various media is spent on mobile—while only about 10 percent of advertising budgets goes to mobile.

"What that says to me is that we have opportunity for growth," she said.

The company is still a long way from catching up to rival Google Inc. in the digital advertising market, though. In 2014, Facebook had a nearly 8 percent share of the market compared with Google's 31 percent according to eMarketer. That's an increase for Facebook and a slight decrease for Google from 2013.

California declares electronic cigarettes a health threat

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California health officials Wednesday declared electronic cigarettes a health threat that should be strictly regulated like tobacco products, joining other states and health advocates across the U.S. in seeking tighter controls as "vaping" grows in popularity.

The California Department of Public Health released a

report saying e-cigarettes emit cancer-causing chemicals and get users hooked on nicotine but acknowledging that more research needs to be done to determine the immediate and long-term health effects.

"E-cigarettes are not as harmful as conventional cigarettes, but e-cigarettes are not harmless" said California Health Officer Ron Chapman.

"Without action, it is likely that California's more than two decades of progress to

prevent and reduce traditional tobacco use will erode as e-cigarettes re-normalize smoking behavior," the report says.

E-cigarettes heat liquid nicotine into inhalable vapor without the tar and other chemicals found in traditional cigarettes. A cartridge of nicotine can cost anywhere from \$5 to \$20 dollars and can be reused.

Nation

Tape: Scientist offers to build nuke bomb targeting NY

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A disgruntled, former Los Alamos National Laboratory scientist promised to build 40 nuclear weapons for Venezuela in 10 years and design a bomb targeted for New York City in exchange for “money and power,” according to secret FBI recordings released Wednesday.

In the recordings, Pedro Leonardo Mascheroni tells an agent posing as a Venezuelan official that the bombs would prevent the United States from invading the oil-rich nation and brags to his wife that the passing of secrets would make him wealthy.

“I’m going to be the boss with money and power,” the naturalized U.S. citizen from Argentina is heard saying. “I’m not an American anymore. This is it.”

Mascheroni said his New York bomb wouldn’t kill anyone but would disable the city’s electrical system and help Venezuela become a nuclear superpower. It was not known how realistic his New York bombing idea was.

But he suggested that once Venezuela obtained a bomb, the country should explode it “to let the world know what we’ve got,”



according to the recordings.

The recordings were played Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Albuquerque be-

This Oct. 22, 2009, file photo shows former Los Alamos National Laboratory nuclear physicist Pedro Leonardo Mascheroni on his back deck in Los Alamos, N.M. Mascheroni pleaded guilty to trying to help Venezuela develop a nuclear weapon was sentenced Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015, to five years in prison and three years of supervised release.

a plea agreement.

Mascheroni and his wife, Marjorie Roxby Mascheroni, pleaded guilty in 2013 to offering to help develop a nuclear weapon for Venezuela through

dealings with an undercover FBI agent posing as a representative of the South American country.

His wife received a year and a day in prison for conspiring with her husband to sell nuclear secrets.

The U.S. government did not allege Venezuela sought U.S. secrets.

Despite the evidence and the plea agreement, federal prosecutor Fred Federici said Pedro Mascheroni refused to admit he did anything wrong and has tried to argue that he was the victim of the federal government trying to trap him after being critical of

U.S. nuclear policy.

“He was no true hero,” Federici said. “He was simply a man who betrayed his country.”

Speaking to a judge, Mascheroni was defiant and said that if his case had gone to trial, a federal jury would have acquitted him. He said the information he passed onto the agent was already available online or simply was made up.

“I was basically selling used cars,” Mascheroni said during a long tirade in federal court that had to be interrupted by U.S. District Judge William P. Johnson. “What I was selling was completely science fiction.”

Boston bounces back from 2 feet of snow after blizzard

BOSTON (AP)—Boston bounced back quickly Wednesday from the Blizzard of 2015, with subways, buses and trains up and running again the morning after the storm buried a swath of New England in 2 to 3 feet of snow.

Many businesses reopened, as did Logan Airport, and homeowners, motorists and storekeepers dug out with grudging praise for the forecasters, who

missed the mark in New York but got it right in New England.

A Boston bartender, Chris Laudani, became an instant symbol of the city’s resilience for shoveling snow off the yellow and blue Boston Marathon finish line on Boylston Street, where the 2013 terrorist bombing killed three people and wounded more than 260.

“For someone to brave the blizzard to clear our finish line for us is yet another statement as to what our event means not only to runners but also to Americans,” said Tom Grilk, executive director of the Boston Athletic Association, which oversees the marathon.

Meteorologists had warned that Boston would get more than 2 feet of snow by Tuesday night, and the National Weather Service said the city ended up with 24.4 inches, the sixth-highest total on record. Other areas received around 2 to 3 feet, pret-

ty much as predicted.

“They actually got it right,” James Hansen said as he cleared a Boston sidewalk.

There was no gloating among the forecasters, who just seemed relieved they were on the money.

Pointing up the guesswork factor, the weather team at Boston’s WHDH-TV tweeted a photo of the office snow pool, with pre-storm predictions ranging from 22 to 25.5 inches.

As the storm gathered earlier in the week, forecasters had warned that Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey could get 1 to 2 feet of snow. But in the end, they didn’t even see a foot.

With snow removal in Boston well underway, commuters high-stepped their way through a warren of snowy paths and towering snowbanks that gave the capital an almost alpine feel.

‘Never felt guilty’: Civil rights convictions tossed in SC

ROCK HILL, S.C. (AP)—For a moment, Clarence Graham’s heart raced.

Fifty four years after he and eight fellow black men served a month of hard labor for sitting at a whites-only lunch counter, a judge declared that they had been wrongly convicted of trespassing and their records would be tossed.

“In my heart, I was leap-

ing,” Graham said.

Family, friends and supporters in the packed courtroom clapped and cheered Wednesday as Judge John C. Hayes vacated the sentences for the men known as the Friendship 9. Seven of them were in court. One had died, and another couldn’t make the hearing. The men who were there—some surrounded

by their children—smiled as they heard the ruling.

They had “never felt guilty of anything,” Graham said.

Hayes said the men had been prosecuted “solely based on their race.”

“We cannot rewrite history, but we can right history,” he said.

The eight college students and one civil rights organizer

were convicted in 1961 of trespassing and breach of peace for protesting at McCrory variety store in Rock Hill.

They had a choice of spending 30 days in jail or paying a \$100 fine. All opted for jail.

The men’s refusal to pay into the segregationist town’s city coffers served as a catalyst for other civil disobedience. Demonstrators across the South adopted their “jail, not bail” tactic.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTSEWER SYSTEM PROJECT

Project No. CPA-TA-001-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Tinian International Airport Sewer System Project, No. CPA-TA-001-15, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA’s Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes constructability review and overall construction management services. Details are available at CPA’s Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp no later than Friday, February 20, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Construction management experience related to CPA airport related projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly and level of experience with airport related projects;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for airport projects, and the firm’s professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable and a valid CNMI business license.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, MARCH 2, 2015. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: January 29, 2015

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN, MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AIRPORT OPERATIONS AREA (AOA) OFFICE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-15 DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the construction of a new office for the Airport Operation Area (AOA) department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The work shall include all materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Construction of AOA Office -Design/Build Services”. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. D-B Construction Team;
4. References past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also attach their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include resumes and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the AOA personnel.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror’s proposal package.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for design and construction 45%
2. Qualifications of the principals) and assigned staff 25%
3. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects 20%
4. Project Approach 10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within thirty (30) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The contract period for design and construction is stated in the scope of work. Liquidated damages of \$500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without cause.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ

Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: January 16, 2015

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2015 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC RFP 2015-001

“Building Maintenance of NMHC’s Housing Units in Tinian (20 units)”

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC’s Housing Units in Tinian.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Friday, January 23, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Tinian Field Office during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Tinian Field Office on Friday, January 30, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders’ understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios

Corporate Director

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director

Division of Procurement & Supply

Asia

PH says peace pact collapse would aid terrorists

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has warned that the collapse of a peace deal with the country's largest Muslim rebel group would abet terrorism and fresh violence after criticism of the accord followed the killing of 44 police commandos in what authorities said was an accidental clash with the guerrillas.

President Benigno Aquino III called Wednesday for continued support for the pact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, but added he also expected the insurgent group to help authorities identify the rebels who killed the elite police commandos and recover their firearms and belongings.

The Muslim autonomy deal signed last March stands to be one of the legacies of Aquino, whose six-year term ends next year. He was treading on delicate grounds when he spoke about the police killings—the government's biggest single-day combat loss in recent memory—in a nationally televised address late Wednesday.

"If the peace process were derailed, how many more graves would we have to dig?" Aquino asked.

He cited a decision by at least two senators to withdraw support for a proposal in the peace

deal to establish a more powerful autonomous region for minority Muslims in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. The Moro rebels have agreed to embrace autonomy instead of a separate Muslim homeland after years of Malaysian-brokered peace talks.

"If this law is kept from being passed at the soonest possible time, the peace process will be derailed," Aquino warned.

"If that happens, we cannot hope for anything but the same results: Citizens who take to the mountains after losing hope. ... It would be as if we helped Marwan and Usman to reach their goals," he said, referring to the top Malaysian and Filipino terror suspects who were targeted in Sunday's police raid.

The fierce fighting that ensued in southern Mamasapano town ended in the deaths of 44 police commandos and the wounding of 13 others.

The flag-draped coffins bearing the bodies of 42 of the 44 policemen were flown Thursday to Manila, where top government, police and military officials stood in mourning. Close family members, including children, wept, as pallbearers carried the coffins. They will be given state honors Friday by officials led by Aquino.



AP
Philippine President Benigno Aquino III addresses the nation in a live broadcast Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015 from Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines.

"It is unfortunate but not entirely surprising that when parties do not follow established protocols lives are placed in harm's way," he said.

The fighting erupted Sunday as the commandos barged into a remote marshland area off Mamasapano in Maguindanao province to hunt down Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, or Marwan, one of Southeast Asia's most-wanted terror suspects, and a top Filipino terror suspect, Abdul Basit Usman.

Aquino said Marwan was apparently killed. But as the police forces withdrew they got entangled in a clash with at least two different groups of armed men, including the Moro rebels, Interior Secretary Mar Roxas and the police said.

Aquino's peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, along with a cease-fire, have virtually ended major fighting in the south in the last four years. The decades-old Muslim separatist insurrection has left about 150,000 dead and blocked progress in the country's most destitute regions.

North Korea may be restarting nuke plant: US institute

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea may be attempting to restart its main nuclear bomb fuel reactor after a five-month shutdown, a U.S. research institute said Thursday.

If true, the finding, which is based on recent commercial satellite imagery, will be an added worry for the United States and the North's neighbors at a time of increasing animosity over recent U.S. sanctions against the North and Pyongyang's fury about a U.N. push to punish its alleged human rights abuses.

Activity at the 5-megawatt Nyongbyon reactor is closely watched because North Korea is thought to have a handful of crude nuclear bombs, part of its efforts to build an arsenal of nuclear tipped missiles that could one day hit America's mainland.

Nyongbyon, which has produced plutonium used for past nuclear test explosions, restarted in 2013 after being shuttered under a 2007 disarmament agreement. It has been offline since August.

Possible signs in satellite imagery from Dec. 24 through Jan. 11 that the reactor is in the early stages of being restarted include hot water drainage from a pipe at a turbine building that indicates steam from the reactor and growing snow-melt on the roofs of the reactor and turbine buildings.

The U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, however, said that since the recent observation period was only about two weeks, it's too soon to reach a definitive conclusion about what's happening and more monitoring is needed.

The institute's website, 38 North, published the findings.

Nyongbyon can likely produce about one bomb's worth of plutonium per year. A uranium enrichment facility there could also give it a second method to produce fissile material for bombs. It is not clear if North Korea has yet mastered the technology needed to make warheads small enough to be mounted on missiles, but each nuclear test presumably moves its scientists closer toward that goal.

North Korea has said it is willing to rejoin international nuclear disarmament talks last held in 2008, but Washington demands that it first take concrete steps to show it remains committed to past nuclear pledges.

The United States also rejected a recent North Korean offer

to impose a temporary moratorium on its nuclear tests if Washington scraps its annual military drills with Seoul; Pyongyang claims those drills are invasion preparation. The U.S. called the linking of the military drills, which it says are defensive and routine, with a possible nuclear test "an implicit threat."

Always rocky ties between Pyongyang and Washington dipped lower because of a recent Hollywood movie depicting the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The U.S. blames the North for crippling hacking attacks on the movie's producer, Sony, and subsequently imposed new sanctions on the country, inviting an angry response from Pyongyang, which has denied responsibility for the cyberattacks.

PH: Growth shows we're no longer sick man of Asia

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine official says the country no longer deserves to be branded the "sick man of Asia" after its economy grew more than 6 percent for a third consecutive year.

Hampered by natural disasters, growth of the \$300 billion economy slowed to 6.1 percent in 2014, but still outpaced most other countries in Asia, officials said Thursday.

The 2014 performance ranks

the Philippines as the second fastest growing Asian country behind China, which posted 7.3 percent growth, and ahead of Vietnam's 6.0 percent growth, Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said.

The Philippine economy grew 7.2 percent in 2013.

"Our country can no longer be called the sick man of Asia," Balisacan said. "Our economic growth is becoming more competitive with our East and

Southeast Asian neighbors."

The Philippines has been blighted by decades of corrupt governments and the archipelago nation is also vulnerable to frequent natural disasters such as typhoons and floods. Investor perceptions of the country have improved under the government of President Benigno Aquino III, who was elected in 2010 with promises to combat endemic graft and poverty.

"The numbers tell us that we are moving in the right direction," Balisacan said. "Clearly the economic policies and strategies we are implementing to achieve sustained and inclusive growth are bearing fruit," he said.

National Statistician Lisa Bersales said the "robust performance" of industry, particularly manufacturing and construction, lifted growth in the fourth quarter to 6.9 percent from 6.3 percent a year earlier.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai 'Red Shirt' leader given jail term for insulting ex-PM

BANGKOK (AP)—A top leader of Thailand's "Red Shirt" political movement was sentenced Wednesday to two years in jail for insulting a former prime minister, the latest blow to the supporters of another ex-prime minister, billionaire Thaksin Shinawatra. Bangkok Criminal Court found Jatuporn Prompan guilty of defaming Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva in two speeches in 2009. The Red Shirts are backers of Thaksin—who was ousted in a 2006 military coup and convicted of corruption—and his sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, whose government was forced out in another coup last year. The group organized several large street protests that turned violent.

Sri Lankan president reinstates impeached chief justice

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's new president has reinstated the country's chief justice, who was impeached two years ago after she refused to back a law granting wider powers to the former president's brother, the government said Wednesday. In a statement, the president's office described Shirani Bandaranayake's ouster as illegal, and said it and her successor's appointment are now "null and void according to the law." A senior court official said Bandaranayake reassumed her duties Wednesday afternoon but would retire after attending a farewell ceremony on Thursday. That would allow the government to appoint a new chief justice.

Indonesia prosecutor: Americans' murder trial should proceed

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian prosecutors said Wednesday the trial of an American couple charged with murdering the woman's mother should proceed, defending their indictment against defense arguments that it has inaccuracies and should be annulled. The badly beaten body of Sheila von Wiese-Mack, 62, was found in a suitcase in the trunk of a taxi outside an upscale hotel in Bali last year. Heather Mack, 19, and her boyfriend Tommy Schaefer, 21, both from Chicago, are being tried separately with the same judges and prosecutors teams at the Denpasar District Court on Bali. Prosecutors charged them with premeditated murder, which carries a possible death penalty.

World

Raul Castro: US must return Guantanamo for normal relations

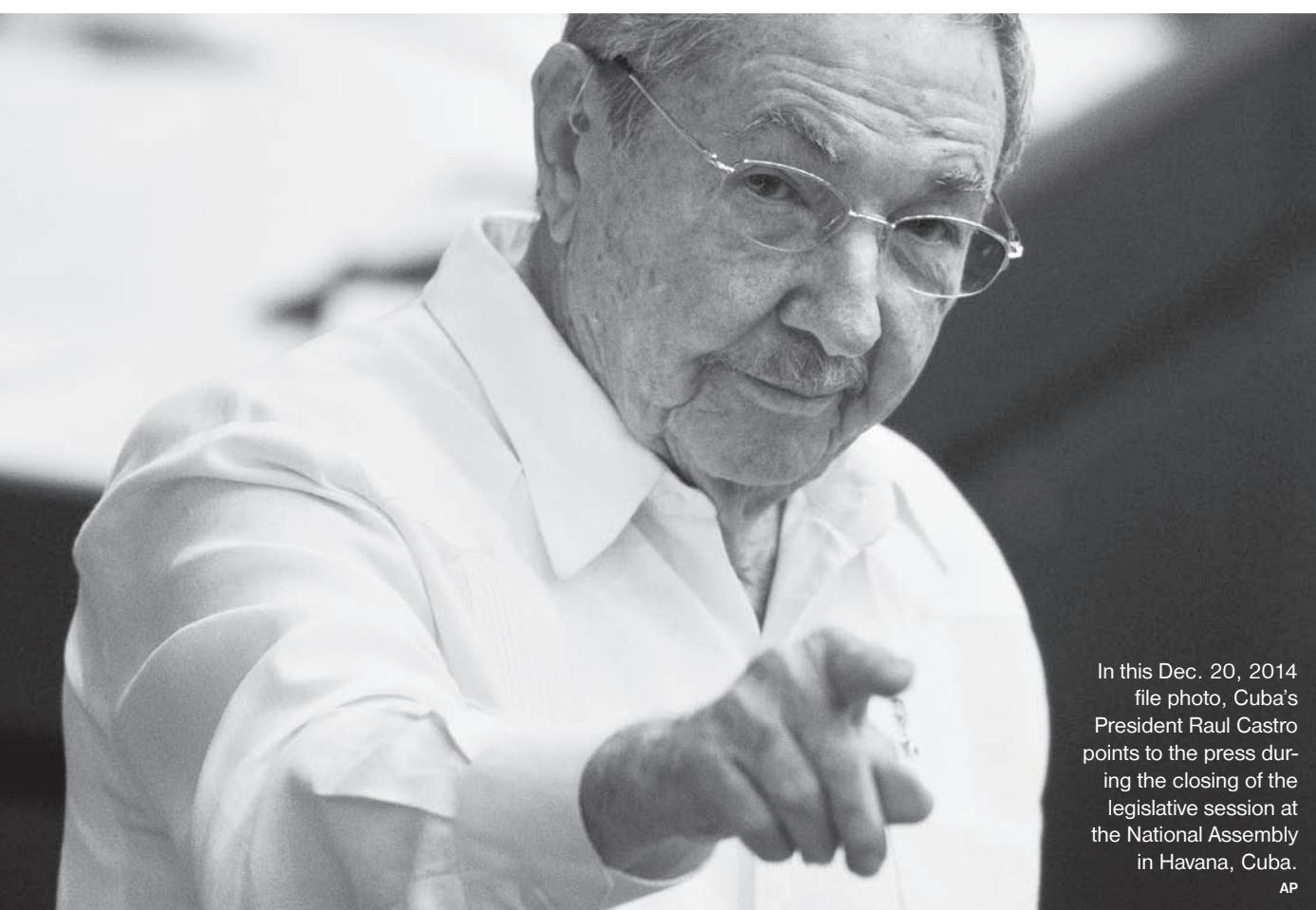
SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—Cuban President Raul Castro demanded on Wednesday that the United States return the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, lift the half-century trade embargo on Cuba and compensate his country for damages before the two nations re-establish normal relations.

Castro told a summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States that Cuba and the U.S. are working toward full diplomatic relations but “if these problems aren’t resolved, this diplomatic rapprochement wouldn’t make any sense.”

Castro and U.S. President Barack Obama announced on Dec. 17 that they would move toward renewing full diplomatic relations by reopening embassies in each other’s countries. The two governments held negotiations in Havana last week to discuss both the reopening of embassies and the broader agenda of re-establishing normal relations.

Obama has loosened the trade embargo with a range of measures designed to increase economic ties with Cuba and increase the number of Cubans who don’t depend on the communist state for their livelihoods.

The Obama administration says removing barriers to U.S. travel, remittances and exports to Cuba is a tactical change that supports the United States’ unaltered goal of reforming Cuba’s single-party political system and centrally planned economy.



In this Dec. 20, 2014 file photo, Cuba's President Raul Castro points to the press during the closing of the legislative session at the National Assembly in Havana, Cuba.

AP

Cuba has said it welcomes the measures but has no intention of changing its system. Without establishing specific conditions, Castro’s government has increasingly linked the negotiations with the U.S. to a set of longstanding demands that include an end to U.S. support for Cuban dissidents and Cuba’s removal from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

On Wednesday, Castro em-

phasized an even broader list of Cuban demands, saying that while diplomatic ties may be re-established, normal relations with the U.S. depend on a series of concessions that appear highly unlikely in the near future.

The U.S. established the military base in 1903, and the current Cuban government has been demanding the land’s return since the 1959 revolution that brought it to power. Cuba

also wants the U.S. to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in damages for losses caused by the embargo.

“The re-establishment of diplomatic relations is the start of a process of normalizing bilateral relations, but this will not be possible while the blockade still exists, while they don’t give back the territory illegally occupied by the Guantanamo naval base,” Castro said.

He demanded that the U.S. end the transmission of anti-Castro radio and television broadcasts and deliver “just compensation to our people for the human and economic damage that they’re suffered.”

The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Castro’s remarks.

Castro’s call for an end to the U.S. embargo drew support at

the summit from the presidents of Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff also praised the effort by the leaders of Cuba and the U.S. to improve relations. “The two heads of state deserve our recognition for the decision they made—beneficial for Cubans and Americans, but, most of all, for the entire continent,” she said.

John Caulfield, who led the U.S. Interests Section in Havana until last year, said that the tone of Cuba’s recent remarks didn’t mean it would be harder than expected to reach a deal on short-term goals like reopening full embassies in Havana and Washington.

In fact, he said, the comments by Castro and high-ranking diplomats may indicate the pressure Cuba’s government is feeling to strike a deal as Cubans’ hopes for better living conditions rise in the wake of Obama’s outreach.

“There is this huge expectation of change and this expectation has been set off by the president’s announcement,” Caulfield said. The Cuban government feels “the constant need to tell their people nothing’s going to change … the more the Cubans feel obligated to defend the status quo and to say that’s nothing going to change, the more pressure it indicates to me is on them to make these changes, partly on the economic side but I would also say on the political side.”

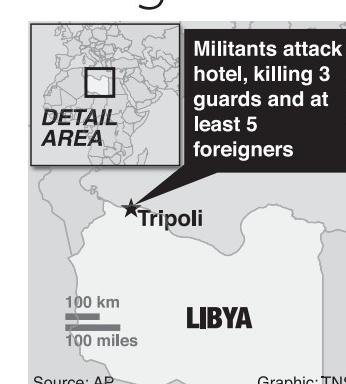
Libya hotel attack signals growing reach of Islamic State

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Militants loyal to the Islamic State group on Wednesday claimed responsibility for a deadly and complex attack on a hotel in Libya’s capital Tripoli, signaling an expansion of the jihadi group’s reach in the chaotic North African state while raising questions about the extent of coordination with leaders in Syria and Iraq.

The attack on the Corinthia hotel on Tuesday, in which gunmen burst into the lobby and set off a car bomb in the parking lot, left 10 people dead, including an American and four other foreigners. An affiliate of the Islamic State claimed the attack and released photos of two suicide bombers it said took part in the assault.

Libya is increasingly taking on the appearance of a failed state, with its elected government forced to reside in the far eastern part of the country while a loose alliance of militias have set up a rival government in Tripoli. Fighting rages between government forces and Islamic militias in the second largest city of Benghazi. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced, embassies have been closed and diplomats have fled the country along with hundreds of thousands of foreign laborers.

The chaos following the overthrow of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in a



2011 uprising has proven fertile ground for the rise of Islamic extremist groups, including a number that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, which controls a third of both Iraq and Syria and has encouraged attacks worldwide.

On Wednesday, the pilot’s father met with Jordan’s king who he said assured him that “everything will be fine.”

King Abdullah II faces growing domestic pressure to bring the pilot home. However, meeting the Islamic State’s demand for the release of a would-be

According to postings on jihadi web forums, groups claiming allegiance to the Islamic State are present in at least five Libyan cities, including the two biggest -- Tripoli and the eastern city of Benghazi, the birthplace of the 2011 uprising.

Islamic State supporters divide the vast, oil-rich country of six million people into three regions, or “wilayat”: Tripoli, Barqa or Cyrenaica in the east, and Fazzan in the south.

The east is already home to Ansar al-Shariah, an al-Qaida-inspired group suspected of involvement in the deadly assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi in 2012 that killed the ambassador and three other Americans.

Islamic State releases new audio message by Japanese hostage

BEIRUT (AP)—The Islamic State group released a message late Wednesday purportedly extending the deadline for Jordan’s release of an Iraqi would-be hotel bomber linked to al-Qaida.

The audio message, purportedly read by Japanese hostage Kenji Goto, was released as Jordan had offered a precedent-setting prisoner swap to the Islamic State group in a desperate

attempt to save a Jordanian air force pilot the militants purportedly threatened to kill, along with Goto.

The recording, in English, says the Jordanians must present Sajida al-Rishawi at the Turkish border by sunset Thursday, or Jordanian pilot Mu’as al-Kasasebeh will be killed.

The Associated Press could not independently verify the

contents of the recording which was distributed on Twitter by IS-affiliated accounts.

Efforts to release al-Kasasebeh and Goto gained urgency with the release late Tuesday of a purported online ultimatum claiming the Islamic State group would kill both hostages within 24 hours if the al-Qaida-linked prisoner was not freed.

Off the Wall

Bart the cat hit by car, buried and then crawls back from grave

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Bart the cat was hit by a car, buried and seemingly crawled back from the dead.

Earlier this month, a car hit the 1 1/2-year-old cat in Tampa. Bart's owner was so distraught, he couldn't stand the thought of burying him, so he asked neighbor to dig a shallow grave.

Five days later, on Jan. 21, a matted and injured Bart emerged, meowing for food. "At first it blew me away," said Dusty Albritton, the neighbor who buried Bart.

"All I knew was this cat was dead and 'Pet Sematary' is real." Bart had a broken jaw, a

ruptured eye and a torn-up face. He was dehydrated and hungry, but alive.

Owner Ellis Hutson didn't know what to do.

"It was unbelievable," he told The Tampa Bay Times. "I've never seen anything like that before."

Hutson got in touch with the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, which through the Save-A-Pet Medical Fund will help cover the costs of Bart's care.

On Tuesday, the cat underwent surgery to remove an eye, wire his jaw shut and insert a feeding tube, which cost more than \$1,000.

The agency's executive director Sherry Silk said Bart should recover in about six weeks and will be going home with Hutson.

"He's purring, even with all these injuries," Silk said. "I can't even imagine how awful he must have felt. He's just a really wonderful, patient, loving cat."

In this Jan. 27, 2015 photo made available by the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, shows Lori Piper holding Bart, a severely injured cat. Bart was hit by a car, buried and seemingly crawled back to his owner five days later.



AP

In Celebration of His New Life

†Vicente Manglona Sablan

Lovingly known as "Ben" / "Vince"

Born to life on December 19, 1959 and was called to Eternal rest on January 25, 2015

In His new life, He now joins His:

Parents: †Vicente Atalig Sablan &
† Carmen Manglona Sablan
Parents-in-law: †Francisco Santos Deleon Guerrero &
†Elizabeth Castro Deleon Guerrero

His memories will forever live in the hearts of His:

Wife:
Bobbie Deleon Guerrero Sablan

Children and grandchildren:

Nikita DLG. Sablan (Liam Ryan Vincent Wilson)
Vincent DLG. Sablan & Moriah Cabral (Isaiah Vicente Cabral Sablan)
Megan DLG. Sablan (Destiny Faith Palacios)

Reared Son: Jonathan Atalig Sablan & Renaesha Villagomez Sablan
(Zavier & Nevaeh Sablan)

Brothers, Sisters and In-law:

Bert M. & Chechang Sanchez Sablan and Children
Angie M. Sablan & Jerry Reyes and Children
†Jose M. Sablan and Children
Juan M. & Bobbie Torres Sablan and Children
Henry M. & Lulu Sablan and Children
Chris M. & †Lucinda Roberto Sablan and Children
†Martin M. & Fermina Atalig Sablan and Children
Liana M. Sablan & Richard Untalan Hofschneider and Children
Diego M. & Elaine San Nicolas Sablan and Children

Brothers In-Law and Sisters In-law:

Josephine DLG. & Victor Mesta and Family
Antonio C. & Annie De Leon Guerrero and Family
Joaquina DLG & † Dennis William Cruz & Ramon Chong and Family
Theresa De Leon Guerrero & Ricardo Cabrera and Family
Ramon C. De Leon Guerrero and Son

He will be greatly missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, In-laws and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each evening at 6:00pm at Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church in Kagman and Holy Rosary is being recited after Mass at 7:00pm. Expect on Sunday, February 01, 2015, Mass will be said at 9:30am and Holy Rosary will be at 7:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, February 02, 2015. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00am to Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church in Kagman. Reponsorial Service will be at 7:30am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:00am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment Services at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Please join us in prayers,

Bobbie DLG. Sablan, Children and Family

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Ohio man says dog got the best of would-be burglar

PORT CLINTON, Ohio (AP)—A family in northern Ohio says a man trying to break into their home left behind a trail of blood after meeting their dog at the front door. The family in Port Clinton says they were home when their 11-year-old pit bull named Mamma heard something at the door and began growling. Tony Byrd Jr. tells The Blade newspaper in Toledo he heard screaming coming from the front of the house Sunday night and came out to see the would-be burglar shutting the door and running to a car. Byrd says he then saw a blood trail in the snow. He says their dog normally is playful and that she must have sensed something about the man. Police are asking hospitals to watch for anyone seeking treatment for dog bites.

Pet reptile not a lizard, Lithuanian student finds out

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)—A baby caiman has found a new home at a Lithuanian zoo after its previous owner tried to sell it online, apparently upon realizing that the pet reptile he was raising in his bathroom wasn't a harmless lizard. Officials at the Kaunas zoo said authorities confiscated the spectacled caiman from a student who had posted an online advertisement for a large lizard. They said the student had kept it for several months but, stunned by how fast it was growing, decided to get rid of it. Lithuanian law prohibits raising dangerous animals at home. The 1.3-kilogram (2.8 pound), 63-centimeter (25-inch) caiman, named "Croc," was handed to the zoo, where visitors could see it for the first time Wednesday.

Snowstorm sasquatch? Watch out for the Boston yeti

BOSTON (AP)—The monster storm in Boston has brought with it another monster—a yeti. The white, furry phantom has been getting laughs by walking through the blizzard in a sasquatch suit. One was spotted in downtown Copley Square. Another was sighted trying to hail a cab in suburban Somerville. New England Cable News reporter Tony Sabato tweeted a photo of the not-so-elusive creature. Above a snapshot of the yeti looking rather pensive, he wrote, "Found the yeti in the blizzard at Copley Square in Boston." It wasn't immediately clear whether there were one or more yetis roaming the Boston streets. As of midday Tuesday, the abominable snowman hadn't revealed his or her true identity.

Maui fisherman reels in tiger shark, gets bitten

WAILUKU, Hawaii (AP)—A 20-year-old Maui fisherman is recovering after being bitten by an 8- to 10-foot tiger shark while he was trying to throw it back to sea. The Maui News reports Michael Pollard received 38 stitches after he was bitten Tuesday morning in Lahaina. Pollard says he should have cut the line when he hooked the shark but decided to bring it in. He and a friend tried to push the shark back into the ocean. Pollard says he was pushing the shark into the water when it started flailing and snagged his leg. The bite left two semicircle marks on his left calf, which he wrapped with a tourniquet made from his sleeves.

Man hid cocaine inside prosthetic leg in his car, police say

DOVER, Del. (AP)—Police say a Delaware drug suspect went out on a limb to transport a stash of cocaine, but he was busted when officers discovered the drug hidden inside his prosthetic leg. Dover Police say 39-year-old Marlow Holmes was arrested Monday afternoon during a traffic stop. They said police dogs alerted officers to the presence of narcotics inside the car Holmes had been riding in. During a search of the car officers said they discovered more than 28 grams of cocaine stuffed into the prosthetic leg that Holmes was wearing, and arrested him. Police say Holmes faces charges of possession with intent to deliver cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was jailed, with bond set at \$81,000. Police say they kept the drugs as evidence but returned Holmes' leg.

Science & Technology

Laptops for minimalists

By HAROLD GLICKEN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you're looking for a small, sleek, laptop computer, and you don't mind switching to an operating system with a moniker like Mavericks, rush right out and buy yourself a MacBook Air. But if you're not up to parting with a \$1,000 and your computing needs are not complicated—in other words, if you use a laptop for email, browsing the Web, updating your Facebook page and are happy to do your word processing in the cloud—consider the Asus x205TA-DH01. Don't be intimidated by the model number or Asus' lack of creativity. Couldn't they have called it something snappier, like Hewlett-Packard does with its Stream?

OK, Asus' 11.6-inch laptop doesn't have a fancy name. In fact, there's very little fanciness about this \$200 laptop. I compare it to the Stream, because I just finished spending a week with HP's \$200 laptop. Both are

What to do when an iPod conks out

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q When my iMac quit working (the hard disk was beyond recovery), I tried to copy the music from my older 8-gigabyte iPod to my replacement iMac. But I apparently lost all the songs, because I didn't understand that copying music works only one way, from computer to iPod. Is there a way I can recover my iPod's music library?

A You might be able to get some of your music back.

Because Apple doesn't allow music to be copied from an iPod to a computer, you probably did wipe out your iPod music library by "syncing" the iPod with your new iMac. But you can still recover songs that you previously bought from iTunes if they're still available. You can download them to your new iMac for free, then transfer them to the iPod.

Unfortunately, any songs that you ripped from CDs or bought from companies other than Apple must be replaced by recopying the CDs or repurchasing the music.

But, before you go to all that trouble, make sure that your iPod is really empty. There are several non-Apple programs that, unlike iTunes, are able to transfer music from an iPod to a computer. See tinyurl.com/peozelz.

Q Whenever I try to view a photo I receive in my MSN.com email, I get a Microsoft request to activate its Silverlight program. I don't want to do

bargains if you're a minimalist.

Like the Stream, the Asus has an Intel processor, 2 gigabytes of RAM and a 32-gigabyte flash drive. It has Wi-Fi and a webcam. Its chiclet keyboard is tolerable, and it surfs the Web just fine. Its display, like the Stream's, is good enough, which is faint praise. The display is just big enough to do some serious computing, although you'd have to do it in the cloud via Microsoft Office 365 or Google docs, given the small flash drive. Asus, like HP, throws in a year's subscription to Microsoft Office 365.

The thin, dark blue case looks elegant, unlike the gaudy colors offered by the HP Stream. But if it's garish you want, the Asus notebook comes in gold, too.

Its footprint is bigger than an iPad and, at 2.2 pounds, much heavier. In fact, when it's closed, it looks like an iPad 4 protected by a heavy case. Like the Stream, the Asus runs Windows 8.1. It has a mic and headphone jack, Bluetooth, two USB 2.0 ports, a micro-

that, because I've read negative reviews of the software (I'm not even sure how the program got on my PC). But there's no way to get around this request message except to close my e-mail. What's the best way to uninstall Silverlight?

A Silverlight is an animation and video program that Microsoft has been urging people to use since 2007, but it has never become popular. (Netflix has said it is changing to other software for its video streaming.) While Silverlight can help you view emailed photos, your PC already has software for that. To uninstall it, see tinyurl.com/kbtcbmt.

Q A friend installed Glary Utilities on my Windows 8.1 PC, but I find the program difficult to use. Is it a worthwhile program? Are there other programs I could use? Will uninstalling it leave behind data that takes up hard disk space?

A Glary Utilities has been favorably reviewed, but that doesn't mean that its level of complexity is right for everybody. Because the program is mainly designed to optimize PC performance, it's not essential and you could uninstall it without any ill effects. There shouldn't be anything left behind to clutter your PC. If you want to try another utility program, you can find 10 of them reviewed at tinyurl.com/by62g.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

HDMI port and a micro SD slot, which can double or triple the onboard storage. The Stream has all that and a USB 3.0 port. The Asus' trackpad is wide and sensitive. The Asus' battery holds a charge for a coast-to-coast trip and will peter out as you're waiting for a gate assignment at Los Angeles International Airport on the return trip, which in my experience, could take awhile. In heavy use, it will run out of fuel somewhere over Kansas. Asus says the battery will last for 14 days on standby and up to 12 hours in regular use. There is very little not to like about

this small laptop.

So, if I had to choose between the Stream and the x205TA-DH01, I'd probably flip a coin. They're the same price, but the Asus is lighter than the Stream.

This laptop niche—bigger than a netbook, more functional than a Chromebook and smaller than a full-blown laptop—might appeal to users who don't need much computing power. But every time I turn on my MacBook Air, I'm reminded why I parted with \$1,000 to use an operating system with a moniker like Mavericks.

Apple releases iOS 8.1.3 to fix bugs

LOS ANGELES—Apple has rolled out its latest iOS update, aimed at fixing bugs and improving performance.

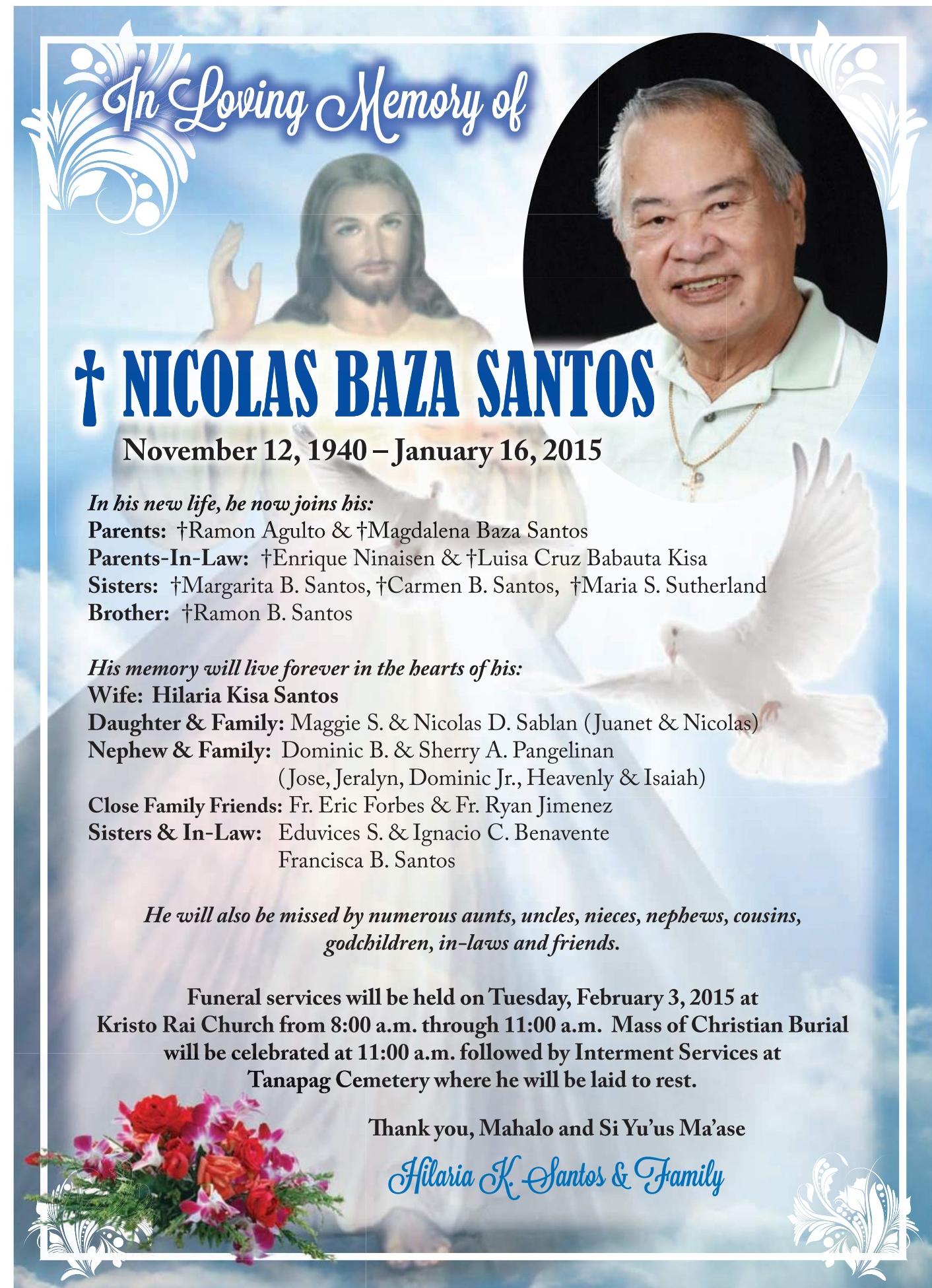
The update, iOS 8.1.3, was made available Tuesday. It fixes an issue that prevented some users from entering their Apple ID passwords for Messages and FaceTime, addresses a problem that caused Spotlight to stop displaying app results, fixes a bug that prevented multitasking gestures from working on iPads and adds new configuration options for educational standardized testing.

For users without a lot of free space on their mobile devices,

iOS 8.1.3 reduces the amount of storage required to perform a software update, although Apple didn't specify by how much.

Notably, the update doesn't appear to address many of the complaints owners of older-model iPhones and iPads had about iOS 8, such as rapid battery drain and sluggish performance. As a result, adoption of iOS 8 has been slow.

It's a safe bet Apple isn't too bent out of shape about that, particularly after its blockbuster quarterly earnings released late Tuesday sent the Cupertino, Calif., company's shares up as much as 8.2 percent Wednesday morning. (*Los Angeles Times*)



In Loving Memory of

NICOLAS BAZA SANTOS

November 12, 1940 – January 16, 2015

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Ramon Agulto & †Magdalena Baza Santos

Parents-In-Law: †Enrique Ninaisen & †Luisa Cruz Babauta Kisa

Sisters: †Margarita B. Santos, †Carmen B. Santos, †Maria S. Sutherland

Brother: †Ramon B. Santos

His memory will live forever in the hearts of his:

Wife: Hilaria Kisa Santos

Daughter & Family: Maggie S. & Nicolas D. Sablan (Juanet & Nicolas)

Nephew & Family: Dominic B. & Sherry A. Pangelinan (Jose, Jeralyn, Dominic Jr., Heavenly & Isaiah)

Close Family Friends: Fr. Eric Forbes & Fr. Ryan Jimenez

Sisters & In-Law: Eduvices S. & Ignacio C. Benavente Francisca B. Santos

He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, in-laws and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at Kristo Rai Church from 8:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Services at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Thank you, Mahalo and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Hilaria K. Santos & Family

Life & Style

Ventura won't see 'American Sniper'; says Kyle is no hero

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—"American Sniper" is tops at the box office but don't expect to see former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura lining up at a theater for it.

Ventura, a former Navy SEAL, won \$1.8 million in a defamation lawsuit last year against the estate of the late Chris Kyle, the SEAL protagonist of the movie, which has sparked debate over whether snipers should be considered heroes. Ventura said Wednesday he won't see the film partly because Kyle is no hero to him.

"A hero must be honorable, must have honor. And you can't have honor if you're a liar. There is no honor in lying," Ventura told The Associated Press from his winter home in Baja California, Mexico. He also noted that the movie isn't playing there.

Ventura also dismissed the movie as propaganda because it

conveys the false idea that Iraq had something to do with the 9/11 attacks. "It's as authentic as 'Dirty Harry,'" he said, referring to fictional movie series starring Clint Eastwood, the director of "American Sniper."

Ventura testified Kyle fabricated a subchapter in his "American Sniper" book in which Kyle claimed he punched out a man, whom he later identified as Ventura, at a California bar in 2006 for allegedly saying the SEALs "deserve to lose a few" in Iraq. Ventura said it never happened.

The jury gave Ventura the legal vindication he craved. Publisher HarperCollins removed the passage from the best-seller, and it gets no mention in the movie. Kyle's estate has appealed. Ventura's separate lawsuit against HarperCollins remains pending.

The former wrestler is now working on the second season

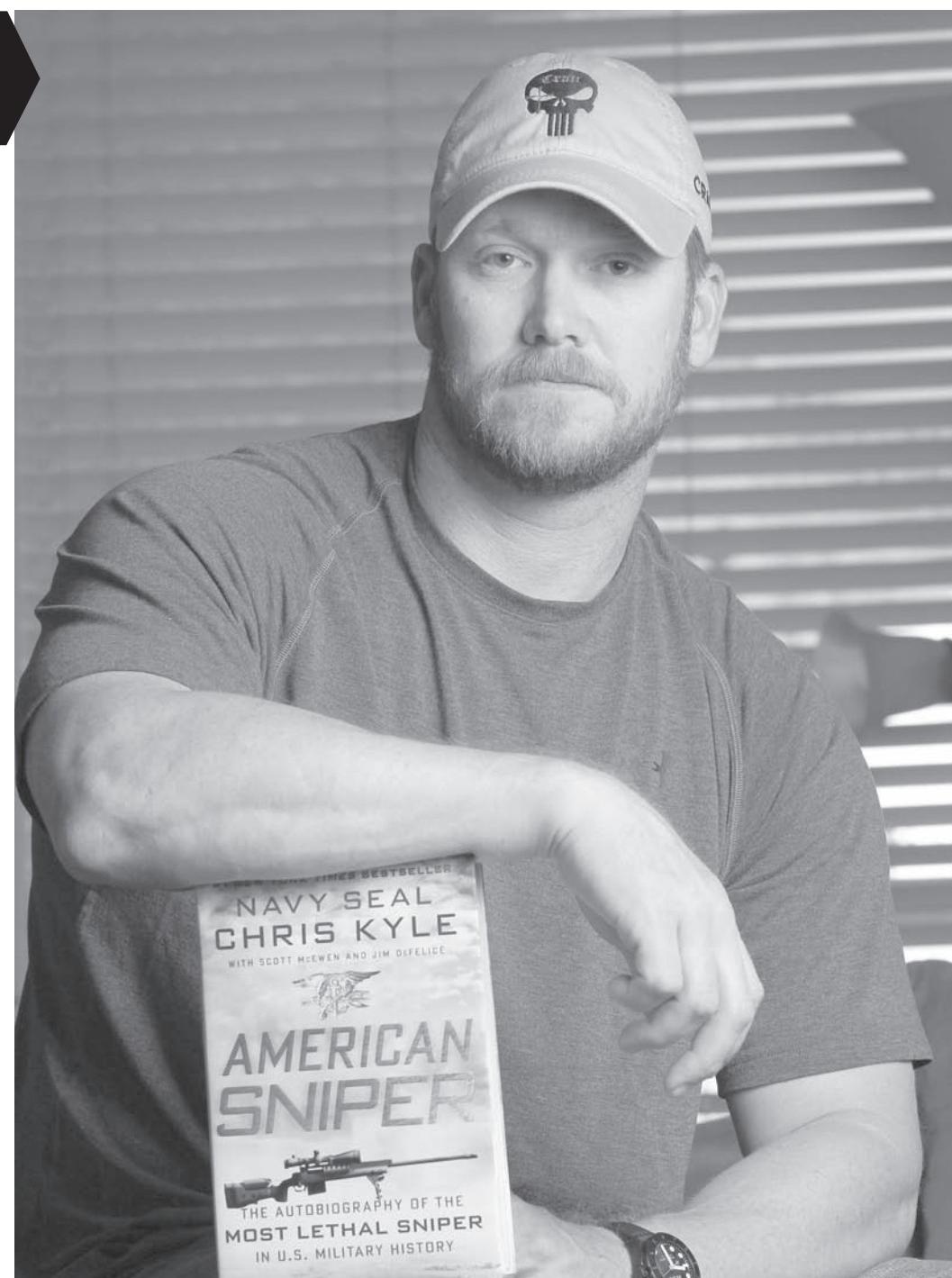
AP
In this April 6, 2012, photo, former Navy SEAL and author of the book "American Sniper" poses in Midlothian, Texas.

of his online-only political talk show "Off the Grid" at Ora.tv, which he records in Mexico, where he lives in a solar-powered home with a satellite Internet connection.

Ed Huddleston, a lawyer for Kyle's widow, Taya Kyle, said they won't comment on Ventura's remarks because the lawsuit is on appeal.

Kyle was killed in 2013 on a shooting range. The former Marine charged in his death goes on trial in Texas next month.

The "American Sniper" film has been a sensation at the box office and has earned more than \$200 million domestically since it was released last month on Christmas day.



Prosecutor questions Lindsay Lohan's community service

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A prosecutor on Wednesday raised doubts that Lindsay Lohan had completed the terms of her community service sentence in a reckless driving case that is the final criminal case the actress faces for years of bad behavior.



Documentation presented by Lohan's attorney on Wednesday claims. He said if he is able to show that Lohan didn't complete the hours as stated in court filings, he would seek jail time for the star.

The prosecutor noted that Lohan was receiving treatment for an illness at the time, but the actress' attorney Shawn Holley said it was outpatient treatment and "she powered through it."

Stone spent several minutes silently reviewing the documents, but made no comments on whether he felt the 28-year-old Lohan had completed her community service sentence.

Another judge approved Lohan doing the hours in London.

"If this was Lindsey Smith, nobody would allow this," White said.

White said among the activities Lohan received credit for was a meet-and-greet with fans of "Speed-the-Plow," the play Lohan was starring in.

"She got to shake hands with people, and that's community service," White said. He also complained about Lohan receiving credit for hours in which young people were shadowing her. "I'd love to hang out with a celebrity all day and see their life, but that's not community service."

The community service is one of the last elements of Lohan's sentence for a 2012 case involving reckless driving and lying to police filed after the actress crashed into a dump truck on the Pacific Coast Highway.

civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, and the subsequent passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Oyelowo defended Cumberbatch when asked about the comment.

"In relation to Benedict it's definitely gone too far in terms of political correctness," said Oyelowo.

He was actually being very supportive of the likes of me, and other black actors and actresses—we do have greater opportunities in the U.S. in relation to the U.K."

"We use the term 'people of color' in America. Is that immensely different to what he said? I don't think so, just focus on what he was trying to say."

Directed by Ava DuVernay, "Selma" follows the movement that led to the historic

Rolling Stone's archive coming to Google Play for free

NEW YORK (AP)—Selections of Rolling Stone magazine's near 50-year archive will be available for free on Google Play.

Rolling Stone made the announcement Wednesday. Articles from its archive will be available Friday for Android and iOS phones and tablets. All of its issues will be rep-

Super Bowl advertisers aim not to offend

NEW YORK (AP)—Super Bowl advertisers are being careful not to offend.

GoDaddy decided not to run an ad that showed a dog being sold online so as not to offend dog lovers. The Victoria's Secret angels are fully clothed in its teaser spot, at least, although they reveal more in their actual Super Bowl ad. And an anti-domestic abuse commercial will

have a high profile-spot during the game after a year of domestic violence scandals in the NFL.

Advertisers have to find a balance between grabbing people's attention and not going too far

to shock or offend a broad base of more than 110 million viewers. They want to be sure to make the estimated \$4.5 million they're spending for a 30-second Super Bowl ad worth it. This year, that seems to mean erring on the side of caution.

"Companies are being more prudent," said MediaPost columnist Barbara Lippert. "It's also a very weird atmosphere with all the coverage about deflated balls and domestic abuse. Maybe advertisers want to be a little more careful in that climate."

It's a far cry from the dot.com commercial attempts in 2000, when an E(asterisk) Trade ad showed a monkey in a garage and touted the fact that the company had just wasted \$2 million dollars, but MediaPost's Lippert says it makes sense to be restrained.

Even GoDaddy, which made its name with racy Super Bowl spots since it began advertising 11 years ago, has been moving away from being edgy; last year one of its Super Bowl ads focused on a woman running a small business. This year, they promised a

warm and fuzzy ad featuring a puppy, spoofing a Budweiser ad from last year that also featured a puppy. But the twist at the end of GoDaddy's spot showed the puppy was being sold online via a web site created with Godaddy.com. After it debuted early, a social media storm erupted, with pet lovers finding the ad offensive. GoDaddy said late Tuesday it wouldn't air the ad.

"At the end of the day, our purpose at GoDaddy is to help small businesses around the world build a successful online presence," said CEO Blake Irving. "We underestimated the emotional response." GoDaddy says it has another ad it plans to run.

Wix.com, which helps people build web sites, has taken a lesson from GoDaddy. Instead of debuting as a Super Bowl advertiser with a racy spot like GoDaddy did when it was a new advertiser, Wix.com went for non-edgy laughs with an ad that shows retired football players coming up with funny fictional businesses.

Brett Favre, for instance, invents a charcuterie business called "Favre and Carve".

'Ghostbusters' cast set with McCarthy, Wiig, McKinnon, Jones

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Theater legend Joel Grey reveals that he is gay

NEW YORK (AP)—Joel Grey has publicly announced at age 82 that he is gay. The Oscar- and Tony-winning actor tells People magazine, "I don't like labels, but if you have to put a label on it, I'm a gay man." Grey was married to actress Jo Wilder for 24 years and they have two children together: actress Jennifer Grey and son James, a chef. He says, "It took time to embrace that other part of who I always was." Grey's show-stopping performance as the devilish master of ceremonies in "Cabaret" won him an Academy Award and a Tony. After "Cabaret," Grey went on to star on Broadway in "George M!," the title role in "Goodtime Charley," Amos Hart in the revival of "Chicago," and the Wonderful Wizard of Oz in "Wicked."

Most Broadway theaters reopen Tuesday in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Most Broadway theaters reopened Tuesday, a day after a heavy snow wiped out shows in New York for one night. The Broadway League said all current plays and musicals will be open as scheduled on Tuesday with the exception of "Aladdin" and "The Lion King." The last time Broadway took a big hit from the weather it was Hurricane Sandy in 2012. That storm darkened Broadway for four days and cost more than \$8.5 million in lost revenue. Other venues also shuttered. One open rehearsal by the New York Philharmonic was scrapped for Wednesday. And Louis C.K.'s show at Madison Square Garden was canceled for Wednesday.

Bernie Mac widow drops malpractice lawsuit against doctor

CHICAGO (AP)—The wife of the late comedian Bernie Mac has dropped a wrongful death lawsuit against his Chicago doctor. Rhonda McCullough alleged in the lawsuit that dermatologist Rene Earles failed to recognize signs of respiratory distress in the weeks before Mac's death in 2008 from pneumonia. McCullough's attorney, Cannon Lambert Sr., said the lawsuit can be refiled later after "internal issues" are shored up. He did not elaborate. Earles' attorney, Mike Prangle, told the Chicago Tribune the lawsuit was dismissed Jan. 15 because McCullough "had no legitimate case against Dr. Earles." Earles treated Mac for more than a decade for the lung disease sarcoidosis, which causes inflammation of the body's tissues. Born Bernard McCullough, Mac starred in the movie "Ocean's Eleven" and the sitcom "The Bernie Mac Show."

Benzino arrested after gun found in bag at Atlanta airport

ATLANTA (AP)—Police say former reality television star Benzino was arrested at the Atlanta airport after a loaded handgun was found in his carry-on bag. Benzino, whose real name is Raymond Scott, told The Associated Press on Wednesday it was an "unfortunate and honest mistake." He says he forgot to remove the gun from his bag. He was charged Tuesday with carrying a gun in an unauthorized location and released an hour later on \$3,000 bond. Benzino, the CEO of Hip-Hop Weekly magazine, appeared on VH1's reality show "Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta" and is a former co-owner of The Source magazine. Last year, Benzino was shot by his nephew while driving in a funeral procession for his mother in Massachusetts. Benzino says the gun is registered to him. However, he was arrested under Georgia law because he did not have a license to carry a gun.

NEW YORK (AP)—The "Ghostbusters" reboot has set its all-female leads with Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig and a pair of "Saturday Night Live" performers.

Director Paul Feig announced his stars by posting their pictures on Twitter on Tuesday. Joining McCarthy and Wiig are Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones.

Feig tweeted that Sony Pictures will release the film in July 2016. Production is expected to begin later this year. The new "Ghostbusters" updates the original 1984 film and the 1989 sequel.

Wiig and McCarthy both



McCarthy



Wiig



McKinnon



Jones

starred in "Bridesmaids," which Feig directed. He has since worked with McCarthy on all of

his films, including their upcoming action comedy "Spy."

McKinnon joined "SNL" in

2012. Jones first came to the show as a writer and transitioned into a featured player last fall.

A chupacabra in Japan? Depp says it came from his suitcase

TOKYO (AP)—Johnny Depp has recovered from a cold. And a chupacabra attack.

The 51-year-old actor was all smiles while joking Wednesday with journalists in Tokyo about why he was a no-show at a news conference a day earlier. Depp explained he had been ill but said that wasn't the reason.

"I was attacked yesterday morning by a very rarely seen or experienced animal called 'chupacabra.' I fought with it for hours. They're very persistent, very mean. And I'm pretty sure it came into my suitcase. I threw

him off the 23rd floor. So we'll never see him again. Thank you for understanding," he said.

The chupacabra is a legendary creature rumored to inhabit parts of the Americas.

Depp's tale drew laughs from the crowd of reporters.

When asked what the title character in his latest film would do if he was in the room, Depp channeled the character and replied, "He would probably say something like 'How do you do?' My name is Charlie Mortdecai and I've come here to take as much money from you as I

possibly can, and jewelry, and art, and stuff."

More than 200 journalists were kept waiting for an hour before organizers canceled Tuesday's event because Depp was unwell.

"Mortdecai," an eccentric heist comedy, tanked at the box office, making an estimated \$4.1 million in North America and \$5.2 million elsewhere last weekend.

Depp has a huge fan base in Japan and said he hopes the film will be received well in the country.

"Mortdecai" will be released in Japan on Feb. 6.

Voltaire book on tolerance climbs French best-seller lists

PARIS (AP)—A 250-year-old book by the Enlightenment anti-establishment writer Voltaire is climbing best-seller lists in France weeks after attacks by French-born Islamic extremists that left 20 people dead, including the gunmen.

The "Treatise on Tolerance" is a cry against religious fanaticism and stemmed from Voltaire's conviction that religious differences were at the heart of world strife. He wrote at a time of bloody tension between French Protestants and Catholics.

The Jan. 7-9 attacks started

when two gunmen stormed Charlie Hebdo, a satirical weekly that had received death threats for caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, decimating the paper's staff. Also attacked was a kosher supermarket, where four hostages died. The attack on Charlie Hebdo was widely seen in France as an attack on freedom of expression and the secular state, and in the days after Voltaire's writings were frequently invoked. Several bookstores in Paris are giving the Enlightenment philosopher prominent display space.

Voltaire's book came out in 1763 and now has a place among the best-sellers for Amazon, FNAC and French bookseller Gibert Joseph.

Stephane Charbonnier, the Charlie Hebdo editor better known as "Charb" who was killed in the attacks, wrote two books riffing on Voltaire's title, called "Little Treatise on Intolerance" with the subtitle "I laugh about what I want, when I want." Those books are also selling briskly, as is a novel by Michel Houellebecq imagining France with a Muslim president.

STRASBOURG, France

(AP)—Lawyer Amal Clooney went before Europe's top human rights court Wednesday to argue against a man convicted of denying the 1915 Armenian genocide.

Clooney is representing Armenia as part of an appeal before the Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights, which ruled in favor of the man, Dogu Perincek, in December 2013.

Perincek believes his right to free speech was violated when Swiss courts convicted him of racism for denying the genocide in 2005. He described the genocide as "an international lie."

Clooney said the "most important error" of the court's 2013 ruling in favor of Perincek was that "it cast doubt on the reality of the Armenian genocide."

Historians estimate up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks around the time of World War I, an event widely viewed by genocide scholars as the first genocide of the 20th century.

Seizure in classroom prompts lesson on reaction for kids

EAR ABBY: Last week, I had a seizure in front of my fourth-grade students. This has never happened to me before, so I had never spoken to my students about such a thing. I want to write them and their families a letter expressing my apologies, thanking them for their kind thoughts and giving basic advice on how to handle a seizure. Is this appropriate? If so, how do I start the letter?

APPROPRIATE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR APPROPRIATE: Before writing the letter, check with the principal of your school. Because you now know that you are prone to having seizures, I think it makes sense that your students should know what one is, and what to do in case it happens again in the classroom. Some seizures can be almost unnoticed, while others can be quite severe. If yours are severe, a student should immediately inform another adult and ask for help.

P.S. While you may want to thank everyone for their kindness, it should not be necessary to apologize to anybody for something you couldn't control.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter has always been very independent. She had a normal childhood with the usual friends and events, nothing traumatic that I know of. She is a pretty girl with a funny personality and is very bright.

The issue is, she is 18 and has been on only two dates. She shows no interest in forming any sort of romantic relationship. She

has never had a boyfriend, though many boys have expressed interest in her. The two dates she did go on, one in high school and one in college, she called "duds."

She says she's not gay, and has commented on good-looking guys. I don't know what to think. Do you?

WONDERING MOM

DEAR WONDERING MOM: You say your daughter has always been independent. It's possible she has enough self-assurance that she doesn't think she needs a man in her life right now. It may also be that before becoming emotionally involved with anyone she would prefer to focus on her education or career path. Whatever her reasons, you would be making a mistake to push her in any direction she doesn't feel ready for, or make her uncomfortable about being the way she is.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Mom passed away five years ago, and Dad died four months ago. For the last years of his life Dad was hoping we'd move into their home. It's a beautiful place in a country setting with lots of trees, including pecan trees. We were undecided.

After Dad died, my husband and I were at home making all the funeral arrangements and we were both emotionally exhausted. While I tried to stay busy inside the house, my husband decided to go outside to clear his head. While walking around the yard, he found a pecan in the grass! Abby, there are no pecan trees in this entire neighborhood. We knew the rational answer was that a

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



squirrel must have dropped it, but in our hearts we felt it was Dad giving us the hug we needed so badly, and his way of telling us that everything will work out.

We will be moving into my parents' home in the near future.
AT PEACE IN LOUISIANA

DEAR AT PEACE: There's nothing nutty about your experience. Sometimes we just need a nudge from above to guide us into doing what's right for us. I wish you well in your new home.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

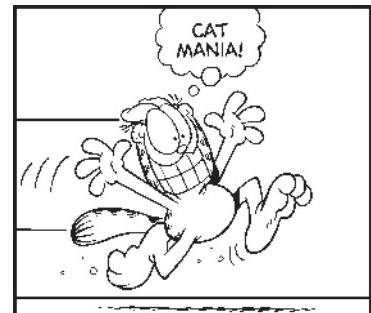


. AND SUDDENLY, THE EARTH OPENED UP! WAILING HELPLESSLY, MOE PLUMBED HEAD OVER HEELS DOWN THE SMOKING CHASM UNTIL HE SPLASHED INTO THE MOLTEN MAGMA AT THE PLANET'S CORE, WHERE HE SLOWLY MELTED BEFORE IGNITING IN A SPITTING FIREBALL OF GREASE!

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



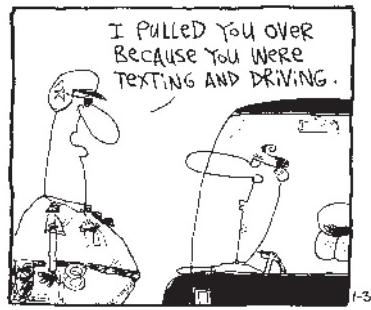
By Jim Davis

Adam@home

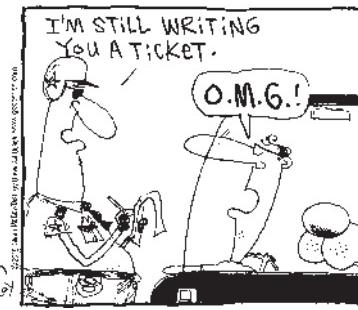


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

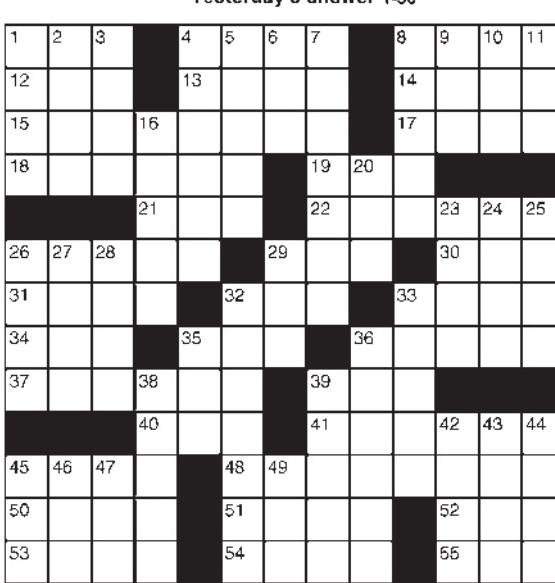
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35	Depilate, in a way	DOWN	23	Have on
1	Vacation-ing	36 Untamed	1	Lum-moxes	24 Diva's rendition
4	Wrinkly-faced dogs	37 Ding site, maybe	2	Take off	25 Holler
8	Overly theatrical	39 Trot	3	Locate	26 Almost
12	Baba	40 Honest politician?	4	Handgun	any Food Network host
13	Fails to be	41 Gets up	5	Leading man?	27 Carry on
14	On the briny	45 October birthstone	6	Wilde-beest	28 Panache
15	Harmonic design system	48 Small opening	7	Add starch	29 Carton
17	Whammy	50 Greet	8	New Orleans cuisine	32 Cautious
18	Tranquil	51 "Exodus" author	9	"— was saying ..."	33 Kelly's former co-host
19	Winter bug	52 Early bird?	10	Fellows	35 Symbol of
21	Rock ridge	53 Sans siblings	11	Opposite of bellum	intrigue
22	Boston stadium	54 Ultimate	16	Microsoft mastermind	36 Robin Hood's territory
26	Fisherman's basket	55 Shemp's brother	20	Joplin or Ian	38 Waste time
29	Plead		42	Goblet feature	39 Joplin or Ian
30	Previous to		43	Therefore	40 Goblet feature
31	"The Laughing Cavalier" artist		44	Wise one	41 Therefore
32	Opposed		45	Discoverer's cry	42 Goblet feature
33	Bar		46	Zero-star review	43 Therefore
34	Zsa Zsa's sister		47	Be under the weather	44 Wise one
			49	Detergent brand	45 Discoverer's cry

Solution time: 26 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-30



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Wilmer Valderrama, 35; Christian Bale, 41; Phil Collins, 64; Charles S. Dutton, 64.

Happy Birthday: Don't wait for things to come to you. Plan your actions and don't stop until you reach your goal. Make the changes you have been too afraid to make in the past. You can improve your home, your standard of living and your future if you are adaptable, diverse and intent on using your assets to get what you want. Your numbers are 8, 13, 16, 20, 24, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get together with old friends or colleagues. The information you gather will lead to a proposal. Express your opinions, listen to the response and positive changes will occur. Avoid a problem with institutions by taking care of paperwork swiftly. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Say little; do a lot. Your actions will be the best expression of the way you feel. Don't give in to someone making a scene or asking for too much. Moderation will be your best course of action. Focus on self-improvement. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Think matters through before taking action. Do not share personal information with a colleague or someone who could make you look bad or hurt your reputation. A positive change at home will give you hope for a new beginning. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take the initiative to do something different. Being set in your ways will not help you get out of a rut. A day trip to a destination that

is unfamiliar or culturally different will be eye-opening. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you want things to change, you'll have to be the instigator. Don't let anyone mislead you or use emotional tactics to coerce you into something you don't want. Don't feel guilty. Do your best to be around positive, upbeat people. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and socialize or spend time with the people who make you happy. Making a decision that will help stabilize your personal life or improve your emotional outlook should be put into play. An investment will pay off. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Interacting with people who share your interests will lead to a joint venture. Don't let indecision hold you back. Make travel plans or set up a meeting before you lose momentum. Listen and learn, and good fortune will be yours. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You've got more to offer than you realize. Step things up a notch and don't let anyone intimidate you. Use actions to express the way you feel and to show everyone what you have to offer. Love is on the rise. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put new effort into your home and your personal life. You are best to let your actions speak for you. Someone is likely to offer you false information that can lead to a poor decision regarding health or beauty matters. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Fix up your place. Revert back to something that made you happy when you were growing up. Resurrect an old dream and incorporate it back into your life. Don't limit what you can do. Step outside your comfort zone. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look into doing some renovations at home. If you figure out a way to get the job done under budget, you'll impress someone you love and respect. Recognition is heading your way. Put time aside to enjoy free time with someone special. ★★★★★

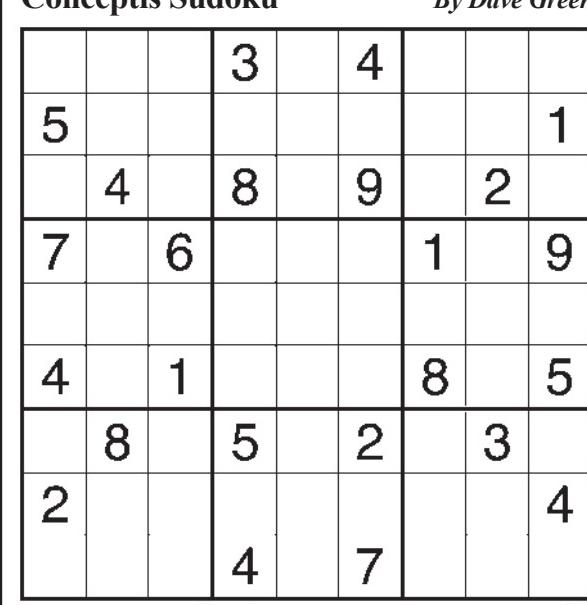
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Avoid dealing with individuals who are demanding and cause stress. Your health will be compromised if you don't take a break. Secrets will be divulged if you aren't careful whom you share your personal information with. Emotional matters will escalate. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are quick, independent and creative. You are caring and insightful. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

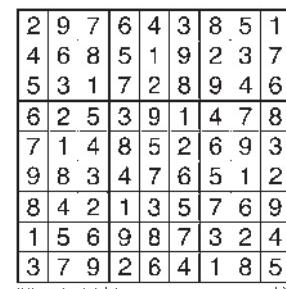
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TECH SUPPORT

Solution: 4 letters

T	E	S	A	L	N	A	I	C	I	N	H	C	E
P	R	C	U	S	T	O	M	I	Z	A	T	I	N
U	A	O	R	P	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	O	F
P	W	S	U	U	P	I	M	O	B	I	L	E	N
G	D	R	S	B	O	O	S	C	S	E	I	I	Y
R	R	E	S	W	L	S	R	T	H	S	A	S	G
A	A	T	U	E	O	E	T	T	A	R	E	S	O
D	H	U	R	T	D	R	S	U	T	N	E	U	L
E	C	P	I	I	E	E	D	H	O	T	C	E	I
V	H	M	V	S	V	S	I	H	O	M	E	N	N
O	A	O	L	B	I	U	P	M	E	O	F	L	K
R	R	C	O	E	C	H	E	L	P	R	T	A	S
P	G	A	W	E	R	A	R	E	P	A	I	R	I
M	E	L	D	V	S	S	E	C	A	R	N	U	I
I	S	L	I	A	M	E	C	I	V	D	A	T	E

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Access, Advice, Assistance, Call, Charges, Chat, Computers, Customization, Devices, Email, Fees, Free, Guidance, Hardware, Help, Home, Improve, Issue, Links, Load, Login, Mobile, Outsource, Password, Payment, Phones, Providers, Remote, Repair, Sale, Service, Support, Technician, Tools, Train, Trial, Troubleshooting, Upgrade, User, Virus, Website Yesterday's Answer: Bracelet

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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CLASSIFIED ADS


EMPLOYMENT

1 - TOUR COORDINATOR
2 - TRAVEL AGENTS
2 - TOUR GUIDE

Must have 2 years experience. Able to speak, read and write English, Chinese & Korean language. With computer skills, knowledgeable in Microsoft programs: Word, Excel and Powerpoint. *Applicants for Tour Guide must be able to drive 12-seater van.

1 - COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

Must know create, modify, and test the code, forms, and script that allow computer applications to run. Minimum of 2 years experience. Able to speak, read and write English, Chinese & Korean language

1 - WEB DEVELOPER

Proficient in designing, building, or maintaining web sites. Minimum of 4 years experience required. Able to speak, read and write English, Chinese & Korean language. Email resume and police clearance to costaworldtour@hotmail.com. COSTA WORLD CORPORATION dba COSTA WORLD TOUR Tel: 235-9272

(3) Cooks. Specializes in Filipino Cuisine. Must have 3 years exp. Can work flexible hrs including weekends. \$6.05/ hr. Consuelo N. Bernardo dba Connie's BBQ & Fastfood/Catering. Call 989-6585.

HOUSE FOR RENT

House for Rent: \$300/month. 2-Bedrooms, 1-Bath, 1-Kitchen, 2-Rain Water Tanks. San Antonio Village 286-0331.

As Lito-Unfurnished 4BR 2 BTH, Utilities not included. \$800 per month. Contact 285-9235 after 6:00PM.

LEAVING ISLAND SALE

2015 RAV 4. 4WD. Automatic. Call for details. 989-1126

**CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT**
Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Position: Cook (1)

Position Summary: To prepare and cook food for a small restaurant, control wastage, clean galley and kitchen appliances and work areas, to ensure cleanliness and a functional operation and to be able to prepare and cook food promptly, in presentable and delectable way.

Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized and self-discipline. Must be able to communicate in English and Chinese language.

Please send application by email to: hr@clubsaipan.com. Deadline for submission of completed applications is on February 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Warehouse for RENT
REM GUALO RAI

Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE

Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
\$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
AQUAVILLE INCORPORATION
(1) Marketing Manager

- Must have knowledge in Marine Sports Activities
- Oversees or monitors new trends in Marine Sports Services
- Compile list describing Marine Sports Activity Services
- Develop pricing strategies with the goal of maximizing the firms' profit or share of the market while ensuring the company's customers
- Able to speak English, Korean & Chinese Language
- Must have at least 3 years work related experience

Interested applicants, please send resume to santos_adonis@yahoo.com or call 670-323-2916

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
MACS MARINE
(1) Marketing Manager

- Must have knowledge in Marine Sports Activities
- Oversees or monitors new trends in Marine Sports Services
- Compile list describing Marine Sports Activity Services
- Develop pricing strategies with the goal of maximizing the firms' profit or share of the market while ensuring the company's customers
- Able to speak English, Korean & Chinese Language
- Must have at least 3 years work related experience

Interested applicants, please send resume to santos_adonis@yahoo.com or call 670-323-2916

Modern Venture, Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement
6 Masseuse
1 Manager

2-3 years' experience required.

Chinese speak is a plus.

Interested applicants may call

670-287-8829

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE

Looking for (2) Cooks with experience in steak and seafoods

WANTED TO BUY

New or Used Flat Grill

Call 989-7125/989-9600

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

HEARTED

Millsap leads Hawks to 17th straight win, 113-102 over Nets



ATLANTA (AP)—Paul Millsap had 28 points and 15 rebounds, five other Atlanta players scored in double figures, and the Hawks stretched their franchise-record winning streak to 17 games in a row with a 113-102 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday night.

Atlanta (38-8) has won 31 of 33 and leads the Eastern Conference by a commanding seven games. This was a bit tougher than expected against the struggling Nets, who kept it close most of the way.

The Hawks pulled away in the final quarter, leading by as many as 15. Millsap finished off Brooklyn's last run with a 3-pointer from the corner with 2:34 remaining, pushing Atlanta to a 109-98 edge.

Joe Johnson led the Nets with 26 points. It wasn't enough to prevent Brooklyn's 11th loss in 13 games, a slide that has knocked the team out of the top eight in the Eastern Conference.

Cavaliers 99, Trail Blazers 94

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored a career-high 55 points, breaking the arena record while LeBron James watched from the bench and leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to their eighth straight win.

Irving took over with James sidelined with a sprained right wrist. He buried a 3-pointer with 6.4 seconds left to break a 94-94 tie, grabbed a rebound off a missed 3-pointer by Portland's Damian Lillard, and as many in the crowd chanted "M-V-P" and James danced near the bench, Irving dropped two free throws with 2.1 seconds remaining to seal the win.

Irving broke the previous scoring record at Quicken Loans Arena held by Allen Iverson. His point total was also the highest in the league this season, bettering the 52 scored by Golden State's Klay Thompson and Minnesota's Mo Williams. Irving made a team-record 11 3-pointers and finished 10 of 10 from the free-throw line.

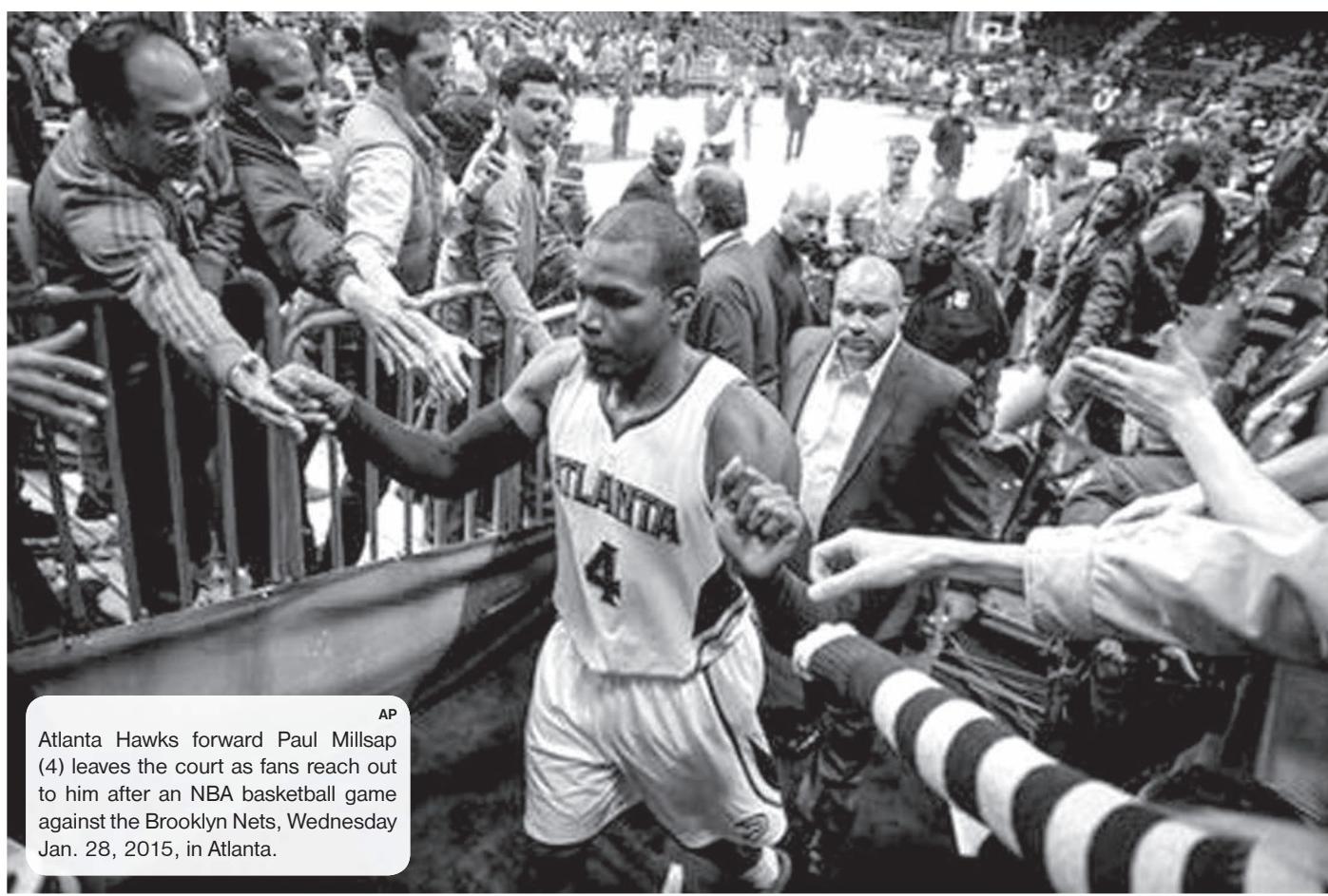
LaMarcus Aldridge, playing his second game since deciding to delay thumb surgery until after the season, scored 38 to lead the Trail Blazers, who have dropped six of seven.

76ers 89, Pistons 69

In Philadelphia, Robert Covington scored 19 points, Michael Carter-Williams had 14 points and 10 assists, and the Philadelphia 76ers snapped a six-game losing streak.

JaKarr Sampson had 13 points and Luc Mbah a Moute added 12 for the Sixers (9-37). Carter-Williams, back after missing the Sixers' last game due to an upper respiratory infection, finished one rebound shy of a triple-double.

Greg Monroe led the Pistons (17-30) with 20 points, and



Atlanta Hawks forward Paul Millsap (4) leaves the court as fans reach out to him after an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets, Wednesday Jan. 28, 2015, in Atlanta.

AP

SIDE BAR

Kobe Bryant has surgery, expected to be out for 9 months

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Kobe Bryant is officially done for the season after having surgery to repair his torn right rotator cuff Wednesday.

The Los Angeles Lakers also made it official that their superstar doesn't believe his career is finished.

Bryant is expected to need nine months to recover from his third straight season-ending injury. If Bryant meets that timetable, he could return to basketball shortly before the start of the 2015-16 season—and the Lakers expect to see him in purple and gold again.

Neal ElAttrache and Steve Lombardo performed the two-hour surgery at the Kerlan Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic in Los Angeles.

"I expect Kobe to make a full recovery, and if all goes as expected, he should be ready for the start of the season," ElAttrache said in a statement provided by the Lakers.

The Lakers formally declared Bryant out for the year by acknowledging the expected recovery time from his injury, but also effectively confirmed he won't retire and will attempt to play his 20th season

in the fall. Bryant, who will be 37 years old this summer, is the NBA's highest-paid player at \$23.5 million this season, and he is under contract for \$25 million next year.

"In my mind right now, he's coming back next year, unless he tells me something different," coach Byron Scott said at practice Wednesday.

Scott already had acknowledged Bryant was highly unlikely to play again this season for the flailing Lakers (12-34), who will match their franchise record for futility if they lose their 10th consecutive game when the Chicago Bulls visit Thursday. But if Los Angeles finishes with a top-five draft pick, the club won't have to give its first-round choice to Phoenix until next year to complete its brutal trade for Steve Nash in 2012.

Bryant hurt his right shoulder while dunking last week in New Orleans, deciding on surgery shortly afterward. He is the third-leading scorer in league history and a five-time NBA champion.

Bryant averaged 22.3 points, 5.7 rebounds and 5.6 assists in 35 games, but made a career-worst 37.3 percent of his shots

3-pointers in a victory over the slumping Sacramento Kings.

Greivis Vasquez scored 18 and Jonas Valanciunas had 15 for the Raptors, who won their fourth straight. It's Toronto's longest streak since a six-game run in December.

Rudy Gay scored 22 points, Ben McLemore had 17 and DeMarcus Cousins, 13, for the Kings, whose season-long losing streak reached seven games. Forward Carl Landry returned after missing the previous five games

in a wildly inconsistent 19th season. He also passed Michael Jordan for third place on the NBA's career scoring list, trailing only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Karl Malone.

Bryant's popularity hasn't waned during his injury-plagued stretch. He was voted to the All-Star game for the 17th time this month, and he is still the Lakers' public face despite his recent prolonged absences from the court.

Bryant missed the 2013 playoffs after tearing his Achilles tendon late in the regular season, and he played in just six games last season before breaking a bone near his left knee. Although he has played through innumerable injuries in the past, the accumulated wear from nearly two decades in the NBA has caught up to him.

Bryant sat out eight games to rest in the past month, and he played under a strict minutes limit. It wasn't enough to protect him from another major injury.

Bryant joins Nash, first-round pick Julius Randle and swingman Xavier Henry with season-ending injuries already for the Lakers.

with a sprained right wrist and finished with 14 points.

Spurs 95, Hornets 86

In San Antonio, Tony Parker

scored 17 points and the San

Antonio Spurs overcame another lethargic third quarter to beat the Charlotte Hornets.

Danny Green had 16 points and Tim Duncan added 12 points and 14 rebounds as San Antonio won its sixth straight at home.

Gerald Henderson scored 18 points, Al Jefferson had 17

added 17 as the Houston Rockets used a balanced scoring effort to outlast the Dallas Mavericks.

It was the third straight win for the Rockets, who played without Dwight Howard (sprained ankle), and the fourth loss in a row for Dallas.

Terrence Jones blocked a shot by Monta Ellis but knocked it out of bounds in the closing moments, giving Dallas a final chance. The inbounds pass by Chandler Parsons sailed out of bounds to give Houston the ball. Harden made two free throws after that to secure the win.

Ellis led the Mavericks with 33 points.

Timberwolves 110, Celtics 98

In Minneapolis, Kevin Martin scored 21 points in his first game in more than two months and Gorgui Dieng added 16 points and 14 rebounds to lift the Minnesota Timberwolves over the Boston Celtics.

Zach LaVine added 17 points and six assists and Martin scored nine straight points during a crucial stretch of the fourth quarter to help the Timberwolves (8-37) snap a 10-game losing streak at Target Center.

Jared Sullinger had 16 points and eight rebounds and Marcus Thornton scored 15 for the Celtics, whose promising road trip came to an end with a thud. The Wolves had not won at home since beating Portland on Dec. 10.

Clippers 94, Jazz 89

In Salt Lake City, Jamal Crawford scored 21 points and the Los Angeles Clippers used a fourth-quarter rally to beat the Utah Jazz.

The Clippers have won a franchise-record 13 straight games against the Jazz.

Crawford knocked down four 3-point baskets in the win, and Chris Paul scored 21 points and dished out six assists. Crawford scored 14 in the first half after scoring 23 against the Nuggets on Monday.

Anthony Davis had 24 points and 12 rebounds, but briefly left late in the third quarter after a collision with Kenneth Faried under the basket. Davis returned with more than 8 minutes left, but the Pelicans were unable to regain the lead.

Tyreke Evans had 25 points for New Orleans.

Knicks 100, Thunder 92

In New York, Carmelo Anthony had 31 points and 10 rebounds, Lance Thomas scored a season-high 17 points against his former team and the New York Knicks beat the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Langston Galloway added 18 points and Tim Hardaway Jr. hit three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, finishing with 14 for the Knicks, who won for the fourth time in five games, representing nearly half of their nine victories on the season.

Russell Westbrook scored 40 points on 13-of-30 shooting for the Thunder, who were without Kevin Durant for a second straight game because of a sprained big toe on his left foot.

Rockets 99, Mavericks 94

In Houston, Josh Smith scored 18 points and James Harden

scored 21 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the loss, while Derrick Favors added 18 points and nine rebounds.

Suns 106, Wizards 98

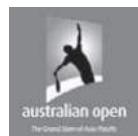
In Phoenix, Goran Dragic scored 20 points to lead five Phoenix players in double figures and the Suns held on to beat the worn-out Washington Wizards.

The Wizards, playing their fourth game in five nights, trailed by 22 in the first half and 18 early in the fourth quarter before twice cutting it to four. Washington's Otto Porter scored eight consecutive points to slice the lead to 101-97 with 1:17 left, but Markieff Morris' high-arching 15-footer with 23.9 seconds to go put Phoenix up 103-97.

Phoenix, which hadn't played since Sunday, improved to 5-2 with one to go in its franchise-record eight-game homestand.

Porter and Marcin Gortat scored 14 each for the Wizards.

Williams, Sharapova to meet in Australian Open final



**M E L -
BOURNE, Aus-
tralia** (AP)—

Serena Williams weathered a barrage of big serves and heavy groundstrokes early and needed nine match points before beating Madison Keys 7-6 (5), 6-2 to set up an Australian Open final against second-seeded Maria Sharapova.

Top-ranked Williams, bothered by a cold in recent days, dominated the second set of the all-American semifinal, breaking Keys' serve twice.

The 19-year-old Keys, playing in her first Grand Slam semifinal, saved seven match points on serve in a penultimate game that lasted more than 11 minutes. Williams kept her cool, wasting one match point on her serve before closing with an ace to reach her 23rd major final.

"She pushed me really hard the first set ... and I had to really dig deep mentally to get through that," Williams said, pausing to cough. "It was a little frustrating, I had like nine or 10 match points and couldn't close it out. That doesn't happen so much. She played like she didn't have anything to lose."

Sharapova, who beat No. 10-seeded Ekaterina Makarova 6-3, 6-2 in an all-Russian semifinal earlier Thursday to reach her fourth Australian Open final, has lost her last 15 head-to-

head matches to Williams. Her only two wins in their 18 career meetings were at Wimbledon and the tour-ending championship in 2004.

"I think my confidence should be pretty high going into a final of a Grand Slam no matter who I'm facing and whether I've had a terrible record, to say the least, against someone," Sharapova said. "It doesn't matter. I got there for a reason. I belong in that spot. I will do everything I can to get the title."

Williams, an 18-time major winner, is back in the final here for the first time since winning her fifth Australian title in 2010.

And her semifinal win ensured she will retain the top ranking, regardless of the outcome of the final.

The 33-year-old American said she was nervous at the start, and it showed. Keys broke her serve to open and dictated many of the longer rallies with her heavy ground strokes, forcing Williams to defend more than usual.

Keys, who beat Venus Williams in the quarterfinals to reach a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time, had control until she was broken in the sixth game.

She held in the 12th game, closing with an ace to force a tiebreaker, but quickly fell behind 4-1 with Serena firing two aces. She saved two set points

with aces but had no chance of extending the tiebreaker when Williams hit another unreturnable serve, and started jumping for joy behind the baseline.

Williams broke early in the second set and raced to a 5-1 lead before Keys held, denying victory for one more game the woman who inspired her to take

up tennis.

Sharapova needed 10 minutes to hold in her opening service game, fending off two break points, in the earlier semifinals. She responded to the only service break against her in the first set by winning six straight games and seizing control of the match from the

10th-seeded Makarova, who had only taken one set off her in five previous matches.

Sharapova won the Australia Open title in 2008 but was comprehensively beaten in the championship matches in 2007, by then unseeded Williams, and in 2012 by Victoria Azarenka.

The five-time major winner opened the 2015 season in confident style by winning the Brisbane International title but had a close call in the second round here, having to save match points against No. 150-ranked Russian qualifier Alexandra Panova. Since then, she hasn't faced a set point.

NFL players who started young show more thinking problems



B O S T O N

(AP)—NFL veter-
ans who started
playing tackle
football before
the age of 12 are more likely to

have cognitive difficulties after their careers, according to a study published on Wednesday in the journal Neurology.

Researchers tested 42 former players on their short-term memory, mental flexibility and problem solving and found those who picked up the sport before they were 12 years old functioned about 20 percent worse. Both groups scored below average on many of the tests, according to Robert Stern of the Boston University School of Medicine.

"There is a known period of critical brain development that occurs around puberty. And if the brain is injured during that time, it may have both short-term and long-term consequences," Stern told The

Associated Press. "This study supports that idea that we need to protect the brains of our children while they're going through this dramatic development period."

The release of the study during Super Bowl week was a reminder for fans—especially those who are also parents—that the sport has bigger problems than deflated footballs.

For the study, NFL players were divided into two groups: those who played as young children, and those who did not. Those in the former group performed worse on the cognitive tests, such as being asked to recall words from a list they had learned 15 minutes earlier.

"The brain is the most critical organ in our body. It's responsible for every aspect of thinking, feeling, moving, behaving; it's responsible for who we are," Stern said. "So the question is: Do we want to expose our

children to anything that may have significant negative consequences for how that brain is going to work later in life?"

The difficulty faced by the former players, who reported an average of nearly 400 concussions each during their lifetimes, is separate from the problem of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, which can only be diagnosed after death.

Stern said the research does not lead to any simple solutions.

Among the limitations of the study, which he conducted with researcher Julie Stamm, were that it only looked at former NFL players; the conclusions cannot be generalized to a broader population. Youth sports also have many health benefits that need to be considered by policymakers, sports organizations and parents, Stern said.

It also looked back at people who played a long time ago;

conditions could have gotten better as concussion education improved—or worse, because athletes are getting bigger and faster. "There is a need for so many follow-up studies," Stern said.

"The issue for me is one of science being balanced with logic," he said. "It does not make sense to me, as someone who studies the brain and as someone who has four kids, to foster repetitive hits to the kids' brains at a young age. Does that really make logical sense? Do we want to do that to our children at that age whose brains are rapidly developing?"

Stern, whose research into CTE has helped lead to a greater understanding of the dangers of concussions, said he isn't ready to write off the sport. Although he said he can no longer watch youth football, he is still a New England Patriots fan who is planning to attend the Super Bowl on Sunday.

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Rent-to-Own

NMIFA hosts Japan Soccer College, kicks off M-League



Soccer action returns on Saipan next week with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association kicking off the spring season of the M-League and hosting Japan Soccer College.

Games in the M-League, the CNMI's premier competition in men's division, will start this Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Five matches are scheduled for Sunday's opening with Paire Football Club taking on Inter Godfa-

ther's in the first game at 12pm. Korean Football Association on Saipan will duel MP United FC in the second match at 2pm, while the three remaining matches will have Wild Bill's vs Tan Holdings FC at 4pm; CNMI Women's National Team vs Matansa at 6pm; and Kanoa FC vs Thunderscats at 8pm. The Shirley's FC-Word Resort tiff on Feb. 4 will complete Week 1 schedule. The remaining game schedules are still being finalized.

Meanwhile, Japan Soccer

(1:35.20) and Yanai (1:08.03) reset their PBTs.

In the shorter event—the 50m butterfly, 19 PBTs were recorded.

In the girls division 10 got PBTs. The list includes Dangol (39.49 seconds), Kana Suzuki (53.79), Nanaka Watanabe (45.10), Coume Kaga (49.20), Nantsuki Nagata (58.28), Miku Tammy (32.38), Gauran (38.91), Aika Watanabe (39.83), Conatsu Kaga (42.36), and Jin Ju Thompson (43.31).

In the boys U8 division, Alekseenko and Xu logged PBTs with their 40.92 and 43.03 seconds, respectively, while Camacho Deleon-Guerrero (38.94), Jinnosuke Suzuki (39.84), Miyawaki (46.05), Rentaro Suzuki (1:06.63), Lenosuke Suzuki (36.63), Sato (40.95), and Yoshino (50.62) had the same feat.

Meanwhile, results in eight other events will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* next week.

it also absorbed a 51-41 beating from KHS 9 in the second game.

Aaron Ogumoro scored the bulk of Kagman's points with his 25, while Christian Arceo backed him up with 17.

De Luna was again at the forefront of MHS 9's offense with 20, while Prado chipped in 10.

First Game

SSHS 9 54—Alipio 17, Siech 9, Villanueva 9, Cobacha 8, Bondoc 7, Kapileo 4.

MHS 9 40—De Luna 14, Manglona 11, Prado 9, Pangelinan 3, Mamari 2, Mendoza 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-9, 19-17, 36-28, 54-40.

Second Game

KHS 9 51—Ogumoro 25, Arceo 17, Mendiola 5, Fabia 4.

MHS 9 41—De Luna 20, Prado 10, Mamari 4, Manglona 3, Huliganga 2, Mendoza 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-9, 33-24, 39-39, 51-41.

Third Game

MCS 54—Camacho 21, Tkel 8, Evangelista 7, Hahn 6, Son 5, Deleon Guerrero 4, Toves 3.

KHS 33—Palino 12, Faisao 9, Lizama 6, Arceo 2, Evangelista 2, Torres 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-6, 22-18, 34-27, 54-33.

School will play another series of exhibition games on Saipan. The Niigita-based team will play first the CNMI U18 National Team on Feb. 3 at 5:30pm at the Oleai pitch before it challenges the CNMI All-Star on Feb. 5 at the same time and venue.

The Blue Ayuyus' youth team is composed of Saixian Babsic, Evan Belcher, Carlson Cruzat, Enrico Del Rosario, Joel Fruit, Joshua Galarion, Kennedy Izuka, Jahn Joyner, Scott Kim, Won Jun Kim, Kenneth and Yoshi Mafnas, John Masga, Sean Perez, Dakota

Hall, Reniel Relucio, Ryan Relucio, Greg Sablan, John Taisacan, Tyu Tanzawa, Glenn Vidal, Christopher Aninzo, and Jireh Yobech.

Joe Miller will lead the All-Star selection and will be joined by Daniel Agulto, Trey Dunn, Ruselle Zapanta, Ethan

Dickinson, Tanapon Unsua, Scott Kim, Kautong Omengkar, Takemoto Suzuki, Yobech, Joyner, Perez, Fruit, Izuka, Del Rosario, Taisacan, Masga, Jershwin Angeles, and coach and NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi. (*Roselyn B. Monroyo*)

BoG named sponsor of Saipan Sportsfest

Bank of Guam has signed on for the 2015 Saipan Sportsfest as a presenting sponsor, according to race director Eric Tydingco.

"Bank of Guam is proud to sponsor the 2015 Saipan Sportsfest, which includes the hallmark Tagaman Triathlon and the Xterra Saipan Championship," said Jackie Marati, Bank of Guam senior vice president and marketing administrator. "We are thrilled to be a part of such a treasured and long-standing event throughout the CNMI community."

After coordinating the Xterra Guam Championship for the past 10 years, PIVOT was approached to coordinate the 2015 Saipan Sportsfest, which includes the Tagaman Triathlon on March 22 and the Xterra Saipan Championship on March 28. Saipan Sportsfest has become a staple event for Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and the event brings in a multitude of professional athletes from all over the world.

"It's exciting to bring in Bank of Guam as a sponsor for this year's Sportsfest," said



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam has signed on to be the official banking sponsor of the 2015 Saipan Sportsfest. From left, Eric Tydingco, Saipan Sportsfest race director; Joaquin Cook, Bank of Guam vice president and compliance manager; Jackie Marati, Bank of Guam senior vice president and marketing administrator; and Tom Akigami, PIVOT business.

Tydingco. "With this dynamic partnership, we will continue to work alongside MVA to promote Saipan as a fantastic destination for sports tourism."

Individual and team registration is currently open for both Tagaman and the Xterra Saipan Championship online at saipansportsfest.com. For more information on Saipan Sportsfest, contact Kelli Wedd, PIVOT marketing director at 1-671-646-4448. (PR)

Softball tournament next month

A softball tournament will be held from Feb. 13 to 15 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The event is co-ed and will implement a double-round robin format. Organizers are looking

for a banquet.

Also honored in the event were Vicenta Sanchez (Ladies), Odin Garces (C Kingfisher), Web Gontar (C Chichirika), Carl Hocog and Fred Salavarria (Thursday Flame Tree), Jhun Echaure (Thursday Fanihi), Chris Omnes (Tuesday B), Freddie Solidum (A), and Jhun Lambon (Masters), who topped their division HI In event.

The HI Out division awardees were Mary Louis Blaluk (Ladies), Russ Saimon (C Kingfisher), Rico Dela Cruz (C Chichirika), Dhan Mateo (Thursday Flame Tree), Richard Guanzon (Thursday Fanihi), Renato Barros (Tuesday B), Rolly Bermiso (A), and Rod Osorio (Masters).

The Top Gun champions were Natalie Reyes (Ladies), Joker Camacho (C Kingfisher), Ray Anthony Aguon (C Chichirika), Darf Bodig (Thursday Flame Tree), Jhun Echaure (Thursday Fanihi), Renato Barros (Tuesday B), Blaren Castro (A), and Anie Legaspi (Masters).

KING

From Page 31

monthly Queen of the Lanes roll-offs. She won seven of the 12 monthly crowns to clinch the top seeding in the finale where she used her twice-to-beat edge against Yho Villavicencio to dispatch her opponent early in one game.

Camacho collected a trophy, \$350 and a case of beer, while Villavicencio received \$200. Third placer Gloria Omecheling went home with \$140, while Janice Camacho and Elena Soll placed fourth and fifth to settle for \$90 and \$75, respectively. Tess Fabie, Carrie Camacho, Rosalinda I. Cal, Lala Taitano and Gigi Zapanta were the other keglers who competed in the Queen of the Lanes finals.

Camacho claimed her fourth overall Queen of the Lanes crown and first since 2012. Last year, she won the January, April, June, July, September, November, and December roll-offs. Kathy Mersai was the other multi-monthly roll-off winner, as she topped the February, March, and May tournaments.

For his part, Sekiguchi said he was happy with the way the participants responded to his teachings.

"The entire course is life changing, especially for new coaches. We are now more equipped with the right skills and these will really help our players and our club," Moran said. "We learned a lot about communicating with players, motivating them, and showing them how things are done properly at the field."

"Some of us are just volunteer coaches and when we started, all we have is the willingness to help our kids/players get involved in soccer. Now, with courses like this, we will be able to help develop more young players," Moran added.

Sekiguchi also said that from the 24 graduates, he will select several coaches to help him in NMIFA's National Elite Academy.

Falcons edge Fielders in 11-inning thriller

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Goru Iskawa scored the winning run and the Falcons used a five-run seventh inning to edge the IP&E Fielders, 8-7, in an 11-inning thriller last Wednesday night in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Iskawa, who singled, reached home after the relay throw made by Fielders third baseman Jose Lizama bounced past second baseman Cedric Ada and the ball just rolled to right field. Lizama was behind Lieto.

Lieto, who walked, would have scored the game-winning run if not for violating that technical rule. Fortunately, Iskawa was behind Lieto.

It was the second straight win in as many games for the Doru Camacho-managed Falcons,

while the Fielders dropped to 1-2.

The Fielders were enjoying a 5-2 lead after 6 1/2 complete innings, getting plenty of help from hurler Jimmy Brel, who held the Falcons to three scoreless innings from fourth to the sixth.

Henry Iguel had an infield single to lead things off for the Falcons at the bottom of the seventh. He moved to second after Lucio Kalen walked and later stole third base to move within 90-feet away from home plate.

Iguel made it 5-3 on an A.J. Lizama single and Kalen also scored on a Lieto RBI single.

An Iskawa two-RBI single had the Fielders grabbing the lead, 6-5, with still no outs. He also scored the last run at the bottom of the seventh, as Kevin Villagomez, who relieved Brel, settled down on the mound.

Villagomez walked Angel Falig, but the latter was tagged out on a 5-3 play. He next forced Ned Norita to a line drive to Field-

ers third baseman Lizama for the second out. Villagomez walked Nunu Kapileo, but the latter got stranded after Frankie Lieto flied out to Tom Guerrero at right field.

The Fielders tied the match, 7-7, at the top of the ninth with Guerrero, off a Lizama RBI single, and Verlance Techur reaching home on a wild pitch to set up the thrilling finish.

Lieto went 2-for-5 with two runs and an RBI, while Iskawa (2-for-6) made two runs and had three RBIs. Myron San Nicolas had a pair of singles early in the game before being replaced by

Mike Iguel in the sixth.

Ton Tenorio went 1-for-3 with three runs for the Fielders, while Jose Lizama had an RBI on a 2-for-4 batting. Ada went 2-for-5 with an RBI single.

Dave Jones pitched six complete innings, limiting the Fielders to three runs on four hits with seven strikeouts and one walk. Iskawa pitched one inning in relief before being replaced by A.J. Lizama at the top of the eighth. Lizama held his own against the Fielders, holding them to two runs on two hits, while fanning two with no walks.

control, goal keeping and shooting, and conducting small sided games.

For the second and last weekend (Jan. 24 and 25), NMIFA technical director and CNMI coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, who led the course, taught participants more techniques in goal keeping and how to hold small sided games in the morning session last Saturday. In the second part of the morning session, Sekiguchi discussed with the participants the future of CNMI football, while the entire afternoon session and the Jan. 25 event were devoted to written

See 24 on Page 30

24 pass D license coaching course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-four made the grade in Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's D license course that concluded last Sunday at Koblerville Elementary School.

Tan Holdings FC's Albert Bergancia, Ladyvir Canape, Rosemarie Lazaro, Michael Moran, Sean Perez, and Ryan Relucio and MP United's Kyle Jun Young Chung, Enrico Del Rosario, Kennedy Izuka, John Joyner, Greg Kim, Jason Kim, Angie Ito, Paire Football Club's Evan Hunsberger, Matansa FC's Amzad Hossain Khan and Panapa Peteru, and Kanoa FC's Michael Fidelino, Lalaine Pagarao, and Raphael Zapanta.

The first weekend of the course was held last Jan. 17 and

18 at the TSL Sports Complex with the first hours of the morning session focusing on ball feeling and passing. The succeeding morning session and a few hours in the afternoon held at KES featured theoretical aspects of the



course with participants learning about planning, techniques and tactics, principles of coaching, and medical and nutrition. The weekend session then ended with another set of drills at the Koblerville pitch with participants learning ball



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, standing left, gives pointers to participants of the D license course early this month at the TSL Sports Complex, while assistant coach Jershwin Angeles looks on.

Guevarra, Muna rule darts blind draw tourney

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The tandem of Albert Guevarra and Alfred Muna ruled the SEDA Bud Light awards banquet blind draw dart tournament held last Sunday at the PIC-Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.

Guevarra and Muna bested 15 other pairs and defeated Alfred Hocog and Allan Dellica in the finals to claim the championship trophies and share the \$320 cash that goes with it.

The duo opened up its title bid by dispatching Ton Tomokane and Dani Bodig then followed it up with a quarterfinals win over Tony Membrere and Alan Sablan.

Guevarra and Muna next eliminated Arvin Orense and Jose Orosco to clinch a semis

berth in their bracket where they faced Carter Calma and Joey Songsong. They then beat Calma and Songsong to secure a spot in the championship match.

Calma and Songsong had to get past the teams of Hank Magofna and Vince Sablan, Carl Hocog and Ansen Jones, and Bobby Castro and Modie Zamora to get into the semis.

Dellica and Alfred Hocog, meanwhile, defeated the pairs of Jeff Barit and Kevin Villagomez, James Benavente and Boom Cruz, Nestor Abing and Claro Bicol, and Ben Aguon and Rico Dela Cruz.

Dellica and Hocog settled for the \$160 runners-up purse, while Barit and Villagomez,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Albert Guevarra, left, and Alfred Muna receive their trophies and the cash prize from SEDA league secretary Warlee Ellama after the duo ruled last Sunday's Bud Light awards banquet blind draw tournament.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes 2014 champions Simon Manacop, left, and Diana Camacho proudly show off their trophies during last Sunday's award ceremony at Kanoa Resort's Nami Bar.



Millsap leads Hawks to 17th straight win, 113-102 over Nets

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24 pass
D license
coaching
course

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Armatech, Rollers 1 ease way to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Armatech coasted to a 55-44 win over Shirley's Coffee Shop to bag the first finals berth in the women's division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Irish Pagarao, Chevy Kate Alipio, and Jeralyn Castillo teamed up in bringing Armatech to the finals and extending the team's winning run to 11 after sweeping the double-round robin elimination. The finals foe of the unbeaten and heavily favored Armatech will be determined tonight as the second-ranked IT&E and Fiesta Resort & Spa collide for the last finals berth at 5:30pm.

Pagarao, who missed Armatech's last game in the elims, returned to action and scored 21 points, while Alipio and Castillo also finished in twin digits, drilling 16 and 10, respectively.

The trio combined for all but two of Armatech's total output in the first half to give the team

a 32-20 advantage at the turn. Pagarao tallied 14 points in the first half, making her last two shots from downtown.

Jeraldine Castillo tried to counter Pagarao's scoring in the first and second half and had successes, but failed to draw enough support from her teammates. Jeraldine matched Pagarao's output, but had only Patrisha Echavez helping her out. Echavez chipped in 12 markers, but most of her points came when Armatech was in full control of the match in the second half.

Meanwhile, in the boys U19 division, top-ranked Rollers 1 also eased its way to the finals after routing the Ol'Aces, 66-34.



The Rollers 1 started the semis match with a 7-0 run and never looked back to gain the first finals seat in the division. Rollers 1 will face the winner of tonight's Final Four pairing between Sonics and Dream Team. The second semis game is set for 7pm, while the championship games in both the boys U19 and women's divisions will be played tomorrow.

Armatech 55—Pagarao 21, Alipio 16, Castillo 10, Abrams 2, Fleming 2, Palero 2, Yiu 2.

Shirley's 44—Castillo 21, Echavez 12, Pablo 8, Vergara 2, Ito 1.

Scoring by halves: 32-20, 55-44.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rollers 1's Kobe Mendoza goes up for a shot against Ol'Aces defenders during their semis game in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic yesterday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Mt. Carmel trounces Kagman

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School clicked from both ends of the floor in the fourth period to trounce Kagman High School, 54-33, in Wednesday night's game in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

It was Mt. Carmel's third straight win to improve to 5-2 for second place behind MHS' clean 6-0 slate. Kagman dropped to an even 3-3 card.

Kagman was very much in the game after the two free throws of Andrew Palino moved them within five, 34-29, with barely two minutes gone in the final period.



The Knights, off a time out by coach Francis San Nicolas, tightened up their defense and went on an 11-2 run to keep a safe 45-31 distance midway in the last canto. Alfonso Evangelista's 5 straight points, including a wide-open 3-pointer at the right corner, kicked off Mt. Carmel's scoring run.

The Knights challenged Kagman's every attempt, whether a jumper or a driving layup, making the Ayuyus take forced or hurried shots. Kagman even missed six straight attempts, wasting the effort of John Dee Paran, who was busy collecting offensive rebounds for the Ayuyus.

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JON PEREZ
Mt. Carmel School's Alfonso Evangelista, center, tries to get out of the double team defense of Kagman High School's Andrew Palino, left, and James Phillips during their game in the MISO High School Boys Basketball League last Wednesday at the MHS Gymnasium.



PBT rush in pentathlon meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Personal best times were recorded one after another in the first four events of last Saturday's 2014-2015 SSC Pentathlon Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The weekend meet's first four events featured the 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke, 50m butterfly, and 100m butterfly races with the former drawing the most PBTs with 26.

All six swimmers in the girls 9 to 10 division achieved PBTs in the 50m backstroke with Tsunami Saipan's Nanaka Watanabe leading the field with her 45.06 seconds (from 50.03). Other PBT getters were Saipan Swim Club's Jinie Thompson (51.57 seconds), Coume Kaga (52.49), Ayaka Sato (1:03.88), and Tsunami Saipan's Natsuki Nagata (53.16) and Ayumi Obligacion (59.58).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Tsunami Saipan swimmer competes in the 50m backstroke race in last Saturday's SSC Pentathlon Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



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In the girls 11 to 12, five of the six swimmers gained PBTs: Tsunami Saipan's Sophia Gauran (41.34) and Aika Watanabe (42.31) and SSC's Conatsu (44.14), Jin Ju Thompson (45.87), and Jasmin Frink (51.01). Other female swimmers who notched PBTs in their respective age groups were U8's Ashley Dangol (43.69) and Shaunlyn Babauta (1:00.73) of Tsunami Saipan.

In the boys U8 division, Tsunami Saipan's Hans Xu and Isaiyah Alekseenko set PBTs of



44.46 seconds and 48.11 seconds, respectively. Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (44.72), Suzuki Rentaro (58.31), and Tomie Kenta (58.32) also of Tsunami Saipan, and SSC's Jinnozuke Suzuki (43.68) had the same feat in the 9 to 10 age group.

Completing the list of PBT getters in the boys division were 11 to 12's Lennosuke Suzuki (39.08 seconds), Taiga Sato (41.72), Rinto Takahashi (43.03), and R.J. Pierce (46.67)